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OF EDUCATION**

HISTORY
OF THE
GERMANTOWN ACADEMY:

COMPILED FROM THE MINUTES

OF THE TRUSTEES.

FROM 1760 TO 1877.

BY

REV. WILLIAM TRAVIS.

EDITED BY

HORACE WEMYSS SMITH,

*Member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Author of "The Life of Wm. Smith, D. D.,"
etc., etc.*

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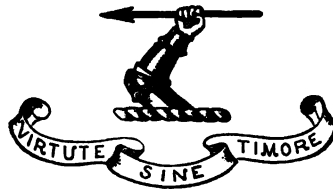
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GERMANTOWN ACADEMY: BUILT A. D. 1760.

PREFACE.

IN the following pages the *Rev. William Travis* has recorded such facts in regard to the history of the *Germantown Academy* as he had been able to glean from the minutes of the trustees and from the traditions existing in the neighborhood. This matter was originally published in the columns of a weekly newspaper, and is now republished, at the request of the trustees, with little or no alteration.

In May, 1877, the Board of Trustees elected *William Kershaw*, A. M., Ph. D., Principal, and *M. C. Kimber*, A. M., Vice-Principal. The school was thoroughly reorganized, and entered upon a career of prosperity unexampled in its history. The attendance, which had

dwindled away to a mere handful of scholars, at once grew to one hundred, and before the year ended had reached one hundred and twenty-four.

A classical division, giving preparation for the best colleges, and an English department, arranged for those who intended to finish their education at the academy, were organized.

A Primary department, under the control of Mrs. William Kershaw, was begun, and such attention bestowed upon it that it has become one of the most prominent features of the school, it now having reached eighty-six in number and requiring the care of five teachers.

The school year entered upon with so great promise was saddened by the death of Mr. Kimber, in January, entailing a loss which it would be difficult to overestimate. Mr. Kimber was educated at Haverford, Harvard and the University of Berlin, and was a man of large heart, rare abilities, and a fondness and capacity for teaching that only the *born teacher* can possess. Though only in the school four months, his influence over the boys was so great that he will ever be held in loving remembrance by all who came under his instruction. He originated the gymnasium, and the Athletic Association which has become such an important factor in the school.

The growth of the school has been constant since the first year. In 1878 there was an attendance of one hundred and fifty-four; in 1879 of one hundred and seventy-six; in 1880 of one hundred and eighty-six, and in 1881 of two hundred.

In 1880 the building was so uncomfortably crowded as to render more room imperative, and the following circular was issued:

GERMANTOWN, April 6th, 1880.

TO THE GRADUATES AND FRIENDS OF THE "PUBLIC SCHOOL OF GERMANTOWN,"
Known as the "Germantown Academy," Schoolhouse Lane:

Under the very successful administration of Mr. Kershaw, the "Public School of Germantown" has so increased in numbers as to make an addition to the building absolutely necessary. The trustees have therefore contracted for the erection of a wing in the rear of the northeast side of the building, and the work is now in progress. The cost of this addition will be \$1800; and besides this expense, the old building will require considerable repair to the joists and flooring. To meet these expenses, at least in part, the trustees have determined to make an appeal to the graduates and friends of the school for contributions, relying upon their affection for the institution and their interest in its success, and hoping with their assistance to lighten, as much as possible, the draft upon the resources of the corporation, which are now considerably straitened.

Subscriptions will be received by any of the undersigned members of the building committee.

JAMES STARR,
CHARLES J. WISTER,
JOSIAH F. JONES,
JABEZ GATES,
FRANK J. FIRTH,
NORTON JOHNSON,
JOS. S. PEROT.

This circular brought forth, before the end of the year, subscriptions in various sums to the amount of \$1081, and the trustees had erected a wing three stories in height, which was finished and furnished at a total cost of \$1850, which amount was eventually collected. New heaters were put in, and the old building placed in thorough repair, adding greatly to the comfort and convenience of the school.

The scholarship of the academy has been kept up to a high standard, its graduates having been "*honor*" men at the University, Princeton, Williams and Haverford. The physical education of the boys has not been neglected. The Athletic Association gives annual exhibitions, which are largely attended and well appreciated.

At the present time the faculty consists of ten teachers. All of the regular teachers have been principals of schools, with one exception. The school has reached its limit in point of numbers, and before any further growth can take place will require additional accommodations.

During the year 1879, by the death of William Adamson, the Board of Trustees lost a most valuable member. Within the past six months it has sustained still further loss by the decease of Col. James Starr, George A. Warder, Norton Johnson and C. W. Chandler, all of whom took the greatest interest in the welfare of the school, and whose counsel and advice will be sadly missed. The Board of Trustees is now (1882) composed of the following members:

CHARLES SPENCER,	JABEZ GATES,
JOSIAH F. JONES,	WILLIAM HACKER,
WILLIAM ASHMEAD, M. D.,	CHARLES W. OTTO,
REV. C. W. SHAEFFER,	CHARLES WEISS,
JOSEPH S. PEROT,	WILLIAM GREEN,
CHARLES M. BAYARD,	JOSEPH HANDSBERRY,
ALEXANDER W. WISTER,	WILLIAM BROCKIE,
FRANK J. FIRTH,	FRANCIS RAWLE,
W. A. ULMER,	C. W. SCHWARTZ,
WILLIAM G. SPENCER,	CHARLES J. WISTER,
<i>Secretary and Treasurer.</i>	<i>President.</i>

Names of teachers :

WILLIAM KERSHAW, A. M., PH. D.,
MRS. WILLIAM KERSHAW,
GEORGE H. DEACON,
CALEB ALLEN, B. A.,
MISS E. P. WATSON,
MISS A. E. FOSTER,
MISS IDA N. STAPLES,
MISS JESSIE B. REED,
F. H. FRETZ,
S. K. MURDOCK.

The portrait which accompanies this volume, of the late venerable Charles J. Wister, Esq., is a fit illustration to the history of an institution with which he was connected as a pupil in his boyhood, and as trustee until within a short time of his death.

H. W. S.



HISTORY OF THE GERMANTOWN ACADEMY.

As long ago as February 12, 1855, according to a minute of the Board of Trustees, Messrs. Wyndham H. Stokes, Wm. Ashmead and Benj. Lehman, were appointed a committee "to examine all papers and records that can be obtained in relation to the school, and prepare the same for publication." But there does not appear to have been any immediate action of that committee in relation to the matter; for the subject is not again mentioned in the minutes until November 14, 1859, when the same committee was, by a resolution of the Board, given "power to fix the time for celebrating the Centenary Anniversary of the organization of the Public School of Germantown." Again, at a meeting, January 2, 1860, it was resolved, "That the President (W. H. Stokes) be authorized to employ some one in connection with himself to have the papers and minutes prior to 1787 revised and recopied." This seems to have some connection with the proposed history of the Academy; but exactly what was to be gained by such "revising and recopying" of minutes so well kept and so venerable from age, does not now suggest itself. It does not appear on the minutes that Mr. Stokes ever performed this duty. In the excellent address of Sidney George Fisher, on the memorable occasion of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Institution, some reference is made to its early history, but it was clearly not his purpose to say much on that subject. Nothing more appears on the minutes in regard to the proposed history until October 14, 1872, when it was resolved, "that the officers of the Board (Norton Johnson, President, and John C. Channon, Secretary), in connection with Mr. Travis, be a committee to prepare for publication in the local papers a condensed history of the school."

At first view the full and almost complete minutes of the Board of Trustees, and the annual meetings of the contributors, seemed amply sufficient for the purpose intended. But after mature deliberation upon the subject, no history of the institution would be satisfactory, without giving a few paragraphs, at least, to some of the public-spirited and worthy men who founded the school, with so much liberality and foresight, at a time when so little was doing to promote the work of general education, and in the midst of very trying and difficult circumstances. But after much investigation and study, it has been difficult to find the material for such paragraphs in regard to many of these men. The matter found in print, in relation to that period of the history of Germantown, is small, and the mention of personal characteristics is very rare, even in regard to those who afterwards acquired a national reputation. It seems specially desirable to learn as much as possible of the history of the school and its patrons during the first periods of its existence, from 1759 to 1784, including the period of the American Revolution.

In order to awaken interest in the subject among all the friends of the Academy, and especially among the families who are proud to trace back their history to those men as their ancestors, a full list of the names of the gentlemen who served on two

important committees in 1760-1761, and of all those who at any time served on the Board of Trustees during that period, is given below.

The first Committee on Subscription to raise funds to erect the building, chosen in December, 1759, was composed of Christopher Meng, Christopher Sower (Saur), Baltus Reser, Daniel Machinett, John Jones, Daniel Endt.

The Building Committee chosen by the contributors in January, 1760: Christopher Meng, Conrad Weaver, Baltus Reser, Jacob Coleman, Jacob Engle.

The first Treasurer was Richard Johnson; afterwards, John Bowman, Thomas Rose and Augustine Neisser served in this office. Mr. Rose held it for twelve years. No presiding officer of the Board was elected until a more recent period. I am informed that the Trustees of the Philadelphia Library still transact their business without choosing a President.

On the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of this period there were some favorites: John Jones was chosen fourteen times, Nicholas Rittenhouse and John Vanderen were chosen thirteen times, Christopher Sower (Jr.) twelve times, Thos. Livezey and Chas. Bensil eleven times, John Koch nine times, and Christian Lachet eight times. The following names appear on the minutes, as members of the Board of Trustees, some of them chosen five, six or seven, and others a less number of times: Joseph Galloway, Daniel Luckens, Melcher Meng, Christopher Meng, George Alseutz, Christopher Lehman, John Bowman, Jacob Neglee, Charles Hay, Thos. Wharton, Abel James, Jacob Lewis, Paul Engle, Edward Milner, John Bockius, Christian Snyder, Justus Fox, Israel Pemberton, Thomas Rose, Daniel Machinett, David Deshler, Benj. Engle, Wm. Dewees, Thomas Gork, Jr., Richard Johnson, Sam'l Wharton, Edward Robeson, John Bringham, Wolong Meng, Sebastian Miller, Jacob Coleman, Samuel Ashmead, Wm. Ashmead, Godfrey Bockius, Augustine Neisser, Frank Mehl, George Bringham, Philip Beneger, John Dedier, Wishard Miller, John Johnson.

THE FIRST MEETING OF CITIZENS.

A simple narrative of the leading facts in the history of the GERMANTOWN ACADEMY, drawn in great measure from the minutes kept by the Board of Trustees, will serve to awaken many pleasant memories. It is *the one institution* of Germantown whose continued history connects a very remote past with the *living present*, and whose foundations were laid so broad and deep by earnest, true and enlightened men, in Colonial days, as to afford ground for strong confidence that it will effectually resist all injudicious assaults of change, and continue to be a connecting link with a very remote period of the hopeful future. No thoughtful man can look upon these strong old buildings so well preserved, occupying the conspicuous place that they now do, in the light of the consideration now presented, without desiring to know something more in regard to them, even though their very existence may have been brought to his attention for the first time. But with how much deeper interest must they be viewed by those who can associate with them the dearest memories of their childhood and youth; whose fathers spoke of them with veneration as the unchanged monuments of the cherished recollections of their earliest schooldays, and the source whence they obtained all the education that fitted them for the stern and responsible duties of the times in which they were called to act, and for their glorious triumphs. The great gathering of the alumni, the trustees, the teachers, the students, and the many friends of the institution in Town Hall, for its Centennial Celebration, in 1860, gave the clearest evidence of the tender affection of a very great multitude for the dear old school, and their delight to do it honor. That feeling becomes broader and deeper as the years roll on. It may slumber for a time,

and for reasons that may not be clearly apparent, but from the very nature of the case, it must again glow with proudest emotion. That community is dead that forgets the glorious doings of its ancestors, or neglects to cherish the institutions of their founding, or refuses to honor or perpetuate them in a manner and at a cost worthy the blessings which they undoubtedly have conferred. GERMANTOWN ACADEMY will not be an exception to this well-established principle in the history of human affairs. The many hearts that cherish it will take means to honor it, to increase its usefulness, and honorably perpetuate that usefulness, by every available and proper means.

Before proceeding to the narrative, one additional remark may be in place here. The broad and comprehensive view of the subject of education, entertained by the founders of this institution of learning, must not be overlooked. They were evidently moved by the same noble spirit of enterprise that many good people seem to think was monopolized by the New England colonists. They looked forward to the coming generations, and realized to an unusual degree the power they possessed to influence them for good, and they did not hesitate to put forth manly and protracted effort to meet their obligations and to perform their duty. They had the true idea of the necessities of the case. Their wisdom grasped the whole problem of education and the means to secure it for their children.

The *teachers* of our children ought to be the foremost men and women of the whole community in all the noblest characteristics of manhood and womanhood, possessing the best endowments of mind and heart, natural and acquired. The occupation of teacher in an elementary school ought to be the most honorable and profitable, and it ought to command the best men and women of the most liberal education, the highest culture and the largest experience. Whoever will take the trouble to consider the early period at which this institution was founded, and the peculiarly difficult circumstances of the case, and will keep in mind the fact also, that the thing done always falls very far short of the ideal in the mind of the doer, must be led to the conclusion that if the large views on this subject entertained by those men—of which the proposed narrative will give us the most conclusive evidence—had been carried out with the same spirit of wise liberality and enterprise which they put forth, by those who succeeded them, generation after generation, GERMANTOWN would now be one of the great seats of learning in this country, and the educational progress of the whole country would have been proportionally grander and more glorious.

Their plan was to erect a large and commodious building for the school, and comfortable dwellings for the teachers or "masters." By this means they would invite the very best talent to the teachers' calling, as a permanent, honorable and profitable occupation. That this plan had been developed and matured by much discussion in a private way, and probably by many unsuccessful meetings, it would seem might be inferred from the distinctness and comprehensiveness of the first minute (as here quoted) of the proceedings of "a meeting of several of the inhabitants of Germantown, and places adjacent, at the house of Daniel Machinett, in said town, the 6th day of December, 1759," when "it was unanimously agreed upon by those present that a large, commodious school-house should be erected in said town, near the centre thereof, two rooms on the lower floor whereof should be for the use of English and High Dutch, or German schools, and be continued for that use, and no other, forever; and that there should be convenient dwellings built for the schoolmasters to reside in."

The fact that two languages were spoken in the village at that time, and that this

would naturally originate two parties, each of which could claim an equal right to the ascendancy in any plan or system of education, presented an obstacle, which in any less enlightened community or one not wholly moved by a noble public spirit, would have proved well nigh insurmountable. But there is no intimation that it gave the founders of this academy any serious trouble; for they united on a plan without a dissenting voice, that met all the wishes of both, and enabled them to move on harmoniously, commanding all available strength, German and English, for the undertaking, nearly equal patronage being given to each school; the German school numbered 60 pupils in 1762, and the English 70 pupils.

At this first meeting a subscription was opened, and "those present generously subscribed thereto," and a committee composed of Christopher Meng, Christopher Sower, Baltus Reser, Daniel Machinett, John Jones, Charles Bensil, and Daniel Endt, was appointed to promote and receive the subscriptions of all such well-affected and generous persons, as were willing to contribute to and assist in said undertaking. The meeting was adjourned to January 1, 1760, when Trustees should be elected by the contributors from their own number by ballot; and the "fundamental articles, concessions and agreements," for the government of the contributors, Trustees, and the managements of the schools, should be presented for approval and adoption.

ORGANIZATION.

At the meeting on January 1, 1760, it was found that a "considerable number, both of the said town and places adjacent," had become contributors, and encouragement was given that the number of contributors would be still farther increased. "The fundamental articles, concessions and agreements" were presented, and a few amendments having been added, were agreed to, and placed in the hands of Joseph Galloway—a gentleman whose opinions on all legal matters seem to have had great weight with the contributors during all these early proceedings—"to be put into form and engrossed," ready to be signed at the next meeting.

Managers of the buildings were chosen, consisting of Christopher Meng, Conrad Weaver, Baltus Reser, Jacob Coleman, Peter Seibert, John Bringham and Jacob Engle.

"Richard Johnson was chosen Treasurer to the Community."

"Christopher Sower, Thomas Rose, John Jones, Daniel Machinett, Jacob Keyser, John Bowman, Thomas Livezey, David Deshler, George Alsentz, Joseph Galloway, Charles Bensil, Jacob Neglee and Benjamin Engle were chosen Trustees for the year ensuing."

In regard to most of the gentlemen composing the Committee on Subscription, and the Managers of the Building, I have been able to learn but little. No doubt Mr. Meng was placed at the head of the Committee and of the Managers, because of his special adaptation for the position. Both the collections of money and the construction of the building were carried forward with a vigor and energy that give evidence of remarkable administrative ability. He was afterwards elected a member of the Board of Trustees, and certainly commended himself to the entire confidence of the Board and of his fellow-citizens.

Christopher Sower, the second on the Committee on Subscription, also stands at the head of the Board of Trustees. He was evidently a man of much prominence at that time. A small volume might be written in regard to him, composed of interesting material not difficult of access. A large number of the Society of Brethren (Tunkers), came from Holland and Germany about 1708, and first settled in Ger-

mantown, and his father, Christopher Sower, Sr., was among them, most probably, for as early as 1735, he established the first type foundry in America, at this place; and in 1743 he published a quarto Bible (in German, for it seems that he could print a Bible in this language without a permit from the government), copies of which are still extant. He commenced the publication of a newspaper, *quarterly*, in 1739, manufacturing his own ink and types. From these facts it would appear that the elder Sower was a type-founder, a practical printer, a publisher, and, in his way, a journalist, not to mention his usefulness as an inventor of a stove that led the market for a time. His son, Christopher Sower, Jr., the Trustee under consideration, continued his father's business; the newspaper was printed monthly for a time, and after 1744, under the name of the *Germantown Gazette*, was issued every week. In a very curious old manuscript book, preserved with great care in the family of the late John Johnson, Jr., labelled as follows, "An Explanation of the Original Location and General Plan or Draught of the Lands and Lotts of German Town and Chreesham, copied from Mathias Zimerman's Original, June 26, A. D. 1746, Christian Lehman," Christopher Sower appears as part owner of Lot No. 6, on the west side of Main street and south of Bowman's lane, now Queen street; and also lot No. 6 on the east side nearly opposite. His place of business was in a house that occupied the ground on which the elegant mansion of Moses Brown, Jr.,* now stands. Here he published two editions of the Bible, and by his *Gazette* exerted a very wide influence, specially among the Germans. He published many other books, among them the Psalter, in German, a copy of which has been shown the writer of this, by Mr. J. J. Smith, to whom it was presented by the late Dr. Thomas F. Betton, as a rare old book. It cannot be doubted that Mr. Sower, at the time he was placed at the head of the Board of Trustees, was an acknowledged leader of public opinion, not only in the church to which he belonged, and among Christian men generally, but also in some at least of the political contests of the times preceding the American Revolution. He is represented by a recent writer of a newspaper article, as "an active, earnest and religious man, a sincere member of the Society of Brethren (Tunkers), and a minister and bishop of that persuasion." He is said to have lost much property about the time of the battle of Germantown, and to have removed to Philadelphia, where he died in 1784, the same year in which the Academy, to the Trusteeship of which he had been elected twelve times during the first twenty-four years of its existence, obtained from the Legislature of Pennsylvania its first Charter. One of the direct descendants of the Sower family, a prominent business man of the city of Philadelphia, Wm. H. Sower, Esq., is a resident of Germantown, and his nephew, Master George Morton, whose father resides in the State of Missouri, a lad of about twelve years, is a student of Germantown Academy (1874), and promises to do honor to his ancestor, whose name stands at the head of the first Board of Trustees of the venerable institution.

It is worthy of note in passing, that both the Friends who came here with Francis Daniel Pastorius, as early as 1683, and the Tunkers, in 1709, sought an asylum in the wilderness for conscience sake, and to escape religious persecution. Like the New Englanders, who came to these shores with the same motives, their first and continued care was the education of their children, and the establishment of schools. The ministers of religion led the way in a united effort, and supported themselves with the powerful instrumentality of the press.

THE FOUNDERS.

Richard Johnson, the first "Treasurer to the Community," was the son of Dirk Jansen (as the name appears in all the old records, and was so written by the family

* Formerly the property and residence of Dr. Owen J. Wister.

until a more recent date). The father was a member of the Society of Friends, one of the first settlers of Germantown, and the original owner of lot No. 17, west side. The original town-lot fronted on Main street, extended to township line, and together with an outside lot constituted a tract of fifty acres. The father and the two sons, Richard and John, together, made the liberal contribution of £60 toward the erection of the school buildings. The whole family down to the present time have been earnest supporters and faithful friends of the Academy. Both Richard and John Johnson became members of the Board of Trustees, the latter in 1778, at one of the most trying periods of the history of the school. John Johnson was the grandfather of the late John Johnson, Jr., the father of Norton Johnson, the President of the Board of Trustees at the present time. John Johnson, Jr., was first elected Trustee May 6, 1799; in 1802 he was chosen Secretary of the Board; and in 1806 he was made Treasurer, which office he held for a period of nineteen years, to the time of his death, in 1825. During this time he was associated with Charles J. Wister, one of the most zealous, earnest and efficient friends of the Academy, and Benjamin Chew, who was President of the Board of Trustees for nearly forty years, and both of whom survived him many years. More particular mention may be made of his services in connection with the notice of those distinguished gentlemen in its proper place. It may be remarked here further, that Norton Johnson is an alumnus of the Academy, and his only son, Wm. N. Johnson, now a student in the University of Pennsylvania, made his preparation for college at the Academy; and that one of the members of the family of John Johnson, Jr., who still adheres to the Society of Friends, resides in the mansion erected by him in 1798, nearly opposite to the historical Chew House, one of the most beautiful sites in all Germantown, occupying the spot where the Americans are said to have planted their cannon for the purpose of dislodging the British from that stronghold during the battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777.

To return to the first Treasurer, Richard Johnson. He was evidently selected for the responsible duties of treasurer because of his superior adaptation for the office. The whole community seemed to act as a unit, and all were ready to devote to the work under contemplation unprecedented sums of money, not as joint stock, on which they expected large dividends in return, but a *free gift* for the establishment of a great institution of learning for the public good. They must have their best and purest man as the guardian of these funds.

A word or two in regard to the principles that governed the contributors, and the amount contributed by them, may therefore be properly placed here. The neatly printed heading to one of the original subscription papers commences thus: "Whereas the education of the Youth in usefull Learning, and in proper regular Mannerly well-qualified Persons, being a Matter of great Moment and concern to all thinking People, and regular and necessary Plans for that Purpose laudable and commendable: It has for a considerable time past, been desired by the Inhabitants of Germantown, to lay some foundation of that kind; in Order, and from a well-grounded Expectation, that the same may be improved upon hereafter;" and further on, "That the said School-house shall be free to all Persons of what Denomination soever and wheresoever residing, to send their Children thereto, without any regard to Name or Sect of People; provided they be regular and subject to the proper and necessary Regulations of the Master and Trustees." In a document called "Agreements, Concessions, &c.," drawn up and signed by thirty-six contributors, January 25, 1760, these broad principles are still more explicitly stated. A gift in value to the amount of forty shillings, "for the erection or repairs of the buildings, or the public use or benefit of the schools therein kept," constituted a

contributor, and conferred the right to vote for Trustees. The very first article of agreement was that children of all denominations should be admitted on equal terms, showing that the sectarian and intolerant opinions that have been so much in the way of the united effort of good people to establish good schools, had been carefully considered and given up for the good of all. All that was required of a Trustee was that he should be "a reputable person of the Community (meaning of the association) and a Protestant Dissenter." The course of study, according to these agreements, was to include "reading, writing, and learning of languages and useful arts and sciences;" and in one of the concluding articles it is said, "And it is further the intent and meaning hereof, that if any more teachers are necessary for teaching the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages, or in any other part of erudition, the Trustees shall provide the same." These were certainly very liberal principles, and indicate most noble aspirations upon the part of those who were the founders of this Academy.

But they were men that executed as well as planned. They gave of their money largely and freely to carry out these purposes. Some of the most liberal contributors were Christopher Sower, Jr., who gave £50 from his father's estate, and £20 in his own name; Dirk Jansen, £20, and his son Richard, £25, and John, £15; Benjamin Engle, £15; George Bensell, £17, and Chas. Bensell, £20, &c., &c. The collectors appointed at the organization paid into the treasury the amounts collected by them as follows: Daniel Ent (or Endt), £9. 10s.; Christopher Sower, £189. 15s.; John Jones, £256. 14s.; Daniel Machinett, £372. 6s. 6d.; Charles Bensill, £162. 12s. 6d.; Christopher Meng, £6. 5s.; Richard Johnson, £32. 4s. 1d.; Baltas Reser, £20. 5s.; David Deshler, £53. 10s.; John Van Deering, £17—amounting in all to £1120. 2s. 1d. This was all paid in during the first year, as shown by the Treasurer's report that now lies before the writer, dated, "January 1st, 1761," and signed, "Richard Johnson." During the same year £1103. 13s. 10d. was paid out on order to the "Managers of the Building," the number and amount of every order being given in the report. The first Treasurer's report is a model of perspicuity and neatness. It was examined by Jos. Fox, William Fisher, Wm. Dewees and Thos. Wharton, who certify on the face of it that "the same is just and true." At the end of the year 1760 there remained in the Treasurer's hands £16. 8s. 3d. As appears in the handwriting of the Treasurer in a report for 1761, similar to the one referred to above, he received together with this balance £163. 11s. 3d. during the year, and disbursed all but £15. 11s. 7d., all apparently for building purposes. The whole financial management of the enterprise, during these first two years, indicates a most healthy state of feeling among the contributors and in the community. The whole showing is a matter for the most satisfactory contemplation of the posterity of those who had a part in these transactions, and of the inhabitants of Germantown, who have fallen heir to the institution of learning founded by such a spirit of management and far-seeing enterprise; and whom the ancient contributors had in view, when they said that they laid the foundation "in order, and from a well-grounded expectation, that the same may be improved upon hereafter."

It has seemed specially desirable to speak at some length of the sound financial policy of the first two years, and of the remarkable vigor shown by all concerned in the collection and disbursing of the money, because a considerable period followed of great looseness of management by those who advocated and succeeded in introducing *lotteries* for the benefit of the school. But this subject will come up again in more natural order.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

It is a curious incident that in the document known as "Agreements and Concessions," it is made the duty of the Treasurer that (Art. 13) "He shall keep the Ancient Charter granted by William Penn, together with the deed of the PUBLIC GROUND at the Market House, and also all the public papers belonging to said town." Mr. John F. Watson—a gentleman who has apparently done more to preserve a record of the early history of Germantown than all others—from whose manuscript notes, found among the old papers of the Academy, the "Art. 13" has been taken, adds, that "These records were afterward removed by *law of the State* to the office of Records in Philada." The writer has not access at present to the "Ancient Charter," nor to a brief statement of its contents; but he has seen an ancient map of "the Market Square," and the mode of its original transfer to the borough. All the facts in the case are presented in the following document, transcribed verbatim from the old manuscript book before referred to in these papers. It is presented here because it is curious in itself, and because it will be very interesting and valuable to many, as a means of fixing the dates of a period in the history of Germantown, that are rapidly escaping the memory of the oldest as a tale of their fathers and their grandfathers, and unless speedily rescued must be lost forever. It connects itself with the subject under consideration, because the Treasurer was made responsible for "the deed" of "Market Square" recently so conspicuous as a scene of desolation and neglect, but now still more strongly inviting attention as one of the most beautiful spots in Germantown, suddenly and magically transformed by the skill and the taste of the Germantown Horticultural Society. The description is appended to a pen-drawn map, on which the boundaries of the lot and the owners of the lands adjoining are particularly described and named. The document is given with the orthography, capitals and punctuation as much like the original as it is possible to print them:

"The above Draught within the red and green lines on page 83 is A PLAN of the GERMANTOWN MARKET PLACE, containing half an Acre of Land [being part of 50 Acres which Dirck op den Kolck by deed of the 6th Day of May A^o. Dom^l. 1691, acknowledged in County Court at Philad^a. the same day and year granted unto James Delaplaine the Father in Fee, WHICH Fifty Acres Francis Daniel Pastorius as Agent of the Frankfort Company by his deed dated the 18th August A^o. Dom^l. 1689 (on which the above recited Deed is Endorsed and both Recorded at Philad^a. in Rolls Office in Book F. Vol. 7 page 143 lfe) had granted unto the said Dirck op den Kolck in Fee] And the said James Delaplaine the Father by his deed dated the 6th day of the 11th Mo. January A^o. D^l. 1704, acknowledged in open Court at German Town 2^d Day of the 3^d Mo. A^o. D^l. 1704, Did grant this half An Acre or Market Place in Germantown by the Limits & Dimensions above described unto the Bailiff Burgesses and Comonalty in Germantown and their Successors forever, and the above Limits agreeable to the above Draught were on the 14th day Septemb^r A^o. D^l. 1740, properly surveyed fixed and ascertained by Benjamin Eastburn Surveyor General of the Province of Pennsylvania in the presence of Sundry Inhabitants, To wit

James Delaplaine, Jr., Dirk Johnson, George Bensell, John Jones, Sr., Blasius Daniel Machinett, John Johnson, George Bringhurst, Senr., Friedrich Ax, Richard Johnson, Paul Engle, Matthias Adams Hogeremoed, John Ashmead, Junr., Christopher Meng, Dirck Keyser, Christian Warner.

And also in my Presence Witness my Hand,

CHRIST^o LEHMAN."

"At a meeting of the Managers, Treasurer, Trustees and a considerable number

of the Contributors at the house of Daniel Machinett in said town, the 25th Jan., 1760," "a considerable number of copies" of the Articles of Concession, &c., was ordered to be printed, a lot suitable for the buildings situated "in the lane or cross street leading toward the Schuylkill, commonly called Bensil's Lane," was purchased from the owners, John and George Bringhurst, for £125, "and articles of agreement were immediately entered into between said owners and the Trustees for the said lot." At a similar meeting of Feb. 8th a draught of the Schoolhouse and the houses of the masters was presented, "the which was also agreed on, the dimensions settled in every particular part." By a special motion made at this meeting, "It was agreed that the same should be hereafter called and known by the name of the Germantown Union School House." On April 4, 1760, the Managers of the Building and the Trustees agreed that the Managers should proceed at once to put the three buildings under roof, "there being a sufficiency of money subscribed to go safely on so far," and then to present their accounts, "in order to consider how to proceed further." On April 10th an order was drawn upon the Treasurer for £125 for payment of the lot in full. On the 17th the deed for this lot was executed, which together with other valuable documents, were given to the Treasurer for safe-keeping, who had previously given his bond, and now was required to give his receipt for these papers, "which receipt was put into the hands of Thomas Rose for the present."

"APRIL 21ST, 1760."

"This day being appointed by the masons to lay the foundation of the Union School House upon previous notice being given, there appeared on the occasion, John Jones, John Bowman, Jacob Neglee, Benjamin Engle, Daniel Machinett, Chas. Bensil, Thos. Livezey, George Alsentz, Thos. Rose, Jacob Keyser and Daniel Dreshler, who all repaired to the lot whereon the Schoolhouse aforesaid is to be erected; several of the Managers and some of the Contributors being also present, four Corner stones were laid by those present as a foundation of the said Schoolhouse."

This is the whole mention of this important proceeding in the well-written minutes of the doings of the Board of Trustees for that day. Whatever ceremony was performed, the above quotation is a sufficient guarantee that all was done in a practical rather than in a theoretical and mystical way. The history of the building was intended to be read in its permanent endurance on a sure foundation that cannot be removed, rather than in the documents and coins found in the "corner stone" of the modern buildings, intended to enlighten those who may be present when they are torn down and the foundations removed forever.

It has not escaped the observation of those who have entered this building, that the first story is much higher than the second, and that both stories are more like the best modern buildings in regard to height than are those of the buildings commonly erected in those early days. The propriety of the height of the first story was seriously questioned by three of the contributors, each of them writing a letter to the Board of Trustees on the subject, which letters were read at two or three successive meetings and made a question of considerable debate. The objectors offered as their reasons for its being too high, that "it was not so warm for the scholars, &c." No mention is made of the economy of a lower ceiling. "The Trustees present having debated on the subject, do unanimously agree that as the dimensions of the said stories in the said school-rooms have been already settled, the same is to continue and be as heretofore settled."

About this time, and very frequently in the history of this body, absent and tardy members were required to pay a fine. For good reasons they were excused, but among others, Charles Bensil and Christopher Sower were found to be without sufficient excuse and were fined. The usual fine was one shilling for absence, and two pence for being late. Benjamin Engle and George Alsentz paid fines for not coming to the meeting in time. This sharp business aspect of these meetings is a matter worthy of particular notice. These men were evidently not of the *Knickerbocker* kind. They were desperately in earnest, and would not suffer the deliberations of the body to be hindered by indolence upon the part of any one.

As the summer wore away, frequent meetings were held and the most careful preparations were made to pay all obligations as fast as they became due. On the 7th of July, of this first year, there is this minute: "gave an order on the Treasurer to Christopher Sower for £2. 10s. for two large bound books to place the entries and accounts of the Trustees and Treasurer therein." These books are still in a state of excellent preservation, showing the workman-like manner in which binding was done at that time in Germantown. But for some reason neither of them was used until the reorganization of the school after the American Revolution for the meeting of November 1, 1784. Until October 14, 1778, the minutes were kept in an unbound book, of unruled paper, composed of twenty-four sheets, foolscap size, covered with strong brown paper, and strongly stitched through like a copy-book. Every page and line of this is still legible.

On the 21st day of July, the following action was taken: "It is agreed by the Trustees and Treasurer present, that each Trustee and the Treasurer do contribute 10 shillings toward making an entertainment for the workmen at the school-house on the day of putting on the upper girders and *joyce*, and raising the rafters and bellfry of said house." This merry-making at the expense of voluntary contributors, and not out of the funds of "the community," or stockholders, seems to have taken place the 21st of August. The scrupulous care of these men not to use the money placed in their charge for any other than its legitimate purpose, stands in marked contrast to some modern methods of transacting public business, and as a very pleasant memento of the simplicity of character and uprightness of purpose of the parties concerned in the transaction.

After all the exertions put forth, the year closed with orders drawn upon the Treasurer for £40. 3s. 6d. and but £16. 8s. 3d. in his hands to pay them. As an offset to this, however, there remained subscriptions to the amount of £220. 12s. 6d. uncollected.

1761.

At the house of Daniel Machinet, on the first day of January, there was held the second election for Trustees, which resulted in the choice of nine of the old members, and of Charles Hay, William Dewees, Esq., Thomas York, and Thomas Wharton, in the place of Daniel Machinet, Jacob Keyser, John Bowman, and Thomas Livezey. Richard Johnson was elected Treasurer.

"The house of Daniel Machinet," built 1748, at which the first meeting of citizens was held, and the favorite place of holding the meetings of the Trustees, is still pointed out at 5067 Main street, above High, on the east side. Its low stories, massively strong walls, and wooden projection at the height of the first story, making an ornamental curve over the front door, mark it as one of the very ancient buildings. It was, at the time referred to, the Great Hotel of Germantown, and for many years before and after, the Machinets, father and son, dispensed the hospitalities of a very generous and aristocratic com-

munity to royal commissioners and princely proprietors, Presidents and Governors, statesmen and judges in very magnificent style. "The House" was evidently the pride of the place, and every grand undertaking was here first hinted at, afterward more gravely stated, deliberated upon, and matured, as was the great undertaking of the "Union School House." Some meetings were held at the house of Jacob Coleman or John Jones.

As early as the 8th of January of this year, "Hilarius Becker who has," as the minute runs, "for some time past kept a German school in Germantown to general satisfaction, being proposed to be the German Schoolmaster at the Union School House, he being willing to undertake the same, and being a capable person for said undertaking, and well approved of by his employers, and the Trustees present, it is agreed that he be the German Schoolmaster at the Schoolhouse, and that he be admitted to reside in one of the dwelling houses, and to move thereto on the first of April next, or as soon as the same be ready for him to move thereto." Such is the entire minute in regard to this matter; and the only other minute made for this meeting was in relation to increasing the fine for absence or lateness, and its sharply pointed moral is too good to be lost: "It is agreed that a fine of eighteen pence be imposed on each of the Trustees who are delinquent to meet precisely at the hour appointed for meeting, unless such reasons be given for such omission as may be satisfactory." The modern wag would say "that means business." It may be proper to add here that these minutes contain the only trace of this Master Hilarius Becker that the writer has been able to find. He seems to have kept on in the quiet, even tenor of his way, undisturbed by the Trustees, and giving no occasion for complaint, until the stirring times of the Revolutionary War turned the attention of the whole community to the sterner duties, and the school was closed; certain it is from the minutes that he had no successor until October 14, 1778, when John Augustus Edert was elected to fill that position, the Trustees giving him "the buildings where the former German Master lived in" and agreeing that he should "have the half of the schoolhouse to keep school in, and to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic, at what price he can agree with the parents or masters of the scholars."

It will be noticed that no rate of charge for tuition was fixed for Master Becker nor any salary mentioned, when he first opened his school, and it seems evident both from this fact, and from the almost entire silence of the minutes of this whole period in regard to the German School, that it was brought under much less rigorous supervision by the Trustees, than the English school. Whether this was because they had such implicit confidence in the superior wisdom of Master Becker as to commit all the details of the school to his management, or whether, as all the business of the Trustees was evidently done in English, there was less interest felt in that school by most of them, it would be rather difficult to decide at the present time. Probably it is fair to suppose that both causes combined to give the German Master but little opportunity to figure in the minutes of the proceedings of the Trustees.

The case was very different however with the English masters. On the 5th day of February, 1761, "it was unanimously agreed that David James Dove be the [English] master who is to enter into the service as soon as the schoolhouse be ready and to continue for one year, and his salary to be one Hundred Pounds." It was determined "that each scholar admitted to the English school shall pay the sum of forty shillings per annum," and the schoolhouse not being ready on the 3d of April next, and there being some uncertainty when it would be ready, the Trustees at that time "determined that, the pay of D. James Dove as English Schoolmaster, shall begin the middle of June next, unless the schoolhouse shall be sooner ready."

The name of D. James Dove is found among "Eminent Philadelphians" in a book with that title, edited by Henry Simpson, and dedicated to the late Horace Binney, Esq., published in 1859; from which account, it appears that he was an Englishman who had gained some singular notoriety in his native land as a popular satirical poet. About 1759 he "was appointed English teacher in the Philadelphia Academy,"—now the University of Pennsylvania—"but he disagreed with the Trustees, and on the opening of the Germantown Academy, in 1762, became head Master in that seminary. Another quarrel soon separated him from that institution, and he erected a house on an adjoining lot where he established an opposition school; but this undertaking was unsuccessful and shortly abandoned, and we hear no more of Mr. Dove." It may have been on account of the rather austere and peremptory manner, and satirical spirit of the master that the first Usher, Thomas Pratt, who had been employed at a salary of £70 a year, appeared before the Trustees, on October 16, 1761, soon after the school opened, and informed them that it did not suit him to continue, but assigned no other reason for remaining no longer. John Points (or Punch), whose salary was fixed at £11 per quarter, became Pratt's successor, but he was dismissed, May 18, 1762, and Joshua Acton, "a stranger," was employed for one quarter on trial. It is noted in the proceedings of the meeting, July 5th, that the Usher had "absconded." Jonathan Dickens was chosen his successor, and he resigned after one quarter's service, for which he received £15, when John Woods entered upon "tryall at the rate of sixty Pounds per annum."

Some idea of the vigor of Mr. Dove's discipline, and the calm and deliberate action of the Trustees in a case that taxed all their wisdom and skill, may be seen in the following minute: "The Board of Trustees taking into their consideration that the instruction of the youth, both in the rudiments of learning and in that of good manners, is chiefly aimed at by this Institution; nevertheless, it being represented to this Board, that some of the children of the people, called Quakers, are in the practice of accosting the masters and others by uncovering the heads, which being inconsistent with the practice of that people and has been the cause of giving some uneasiness to the parents of such children; It is therefore unanimously agreed upon by this Board that the master shall give express orders to the children of persons of that Society, that they do not accost him or any other in that manner or mode of uncovering the head at any time: and that it is the duty of the master (especially to such children as are boarders with him) to know that they regularly attend the places of worship belonging to their several parents, at least on the first days of the week, if such places of worship be kept in this town, and the Clerk of this Board is requested to give the Master a copy of this minute." It seems evident that these orders were intended specially for Mr. Dove, and that the quiet German master was only incidentally referred to by the plural "masters."

THE FIRST COMPLAINTS.

It ought to have been before remarked that the Trustees at a meeting held in the schoolhouse, December 21, 1761, feeling quite rich, having collected fines due from Benjamin Engle, Thomas Wharton, Charles Hay, Jacob Neglee, Joseph Galloway, John Jones, David Deshler, Thomas Rose, Charles Bensell, Christopher Sower, and a present from the last of an account for printing amounting to "7 | 6," in all £3. 10s. 6d., "put it into the hands of Thomas Rose, and the said Thomas Rose is ordered to pay into the hands of the D. James Dove 40 | : of said money to be by him distributed among the schoolboys in such manner as he may think proper as a gratuity for their expertness and aptitude in their learning, the Trustees present having

an opportunity of hearing several of them to satisfaction." This minute proves that Mr. Dove and his school gave very general satisfaction to the Trustees at that time. Two members of the Board were required to visit the school every month, under penalty of a fine for neglecting the duty. On January 15, 1762, the sum of 10s. each, was voted to the German and English Masters, to be presented as a gratuity to their respective "monitors." The English Master, April 6, 1762, was directed to procure a suitable woman to teach "the first parts of reading," but it does not appear that he ever performed the duty. By order of the Board the first Night School was opened October 14, 1762, under the care of the Usher, John Woods, for which he was to receive the compensation of 10s. per quarter, part of it in advance, the school to continue from 6 to 9 p. m., each scholar to find his own candle, and "to pay 2 | 6 for firewood," none admitted for less time than a quarter. Thus far the school had been apparently very prosperous, there being reported soon after the opening 61 scholars in the English department, and 70 in the German, and notwithstanding the frequent change of Ushers, there was no manifest want of harmony among Trustees, Contributors, Masters, patrons and scholars.

All the circumstances of the first complaints, the method of dealing with them, and the issue are given with so much detail, that the history of the Academy would not be complete without some careful account of them; and as these first difficulties are a sort of type of very many that followed, after giving a full account of them a mere allusion to all more modern ones will be sufficient.

It was at a meeting of the Trustees, on January 6th, 1763, that the first demonstration of dissatisfaction was made. "A Remonstrance of Representation," signed by twenty-one of the Contributors, was presented to the Board, by Ubray Meng, under the following heads of complaint, respecting the English School, which they request the Trustees to take into consideration:

"That they think the price of schooling their children, with the additional charge for firewood, is too high considering the advantage the Master has by living free of rent.

"That the Schoolhouse which was originally intended to be reserved and kept for that purpose [of a schoolhouse] and for the necessary meetings of the Trustees and Contributors, is, considerable part thereof, turned into a dwelling and boarding house.

"And that the inhabitants of this place are deprived of the benefits they expected by taking in Boarders by the present Master's engrossing to himself, the whole advantage thereof, and to the manifest prejudice of his proper functions."

A special meeting was appointed for the 20th day of the same month, to give a formal hearing to these charges and complaints, and "to hear and determine any aggrievances that may have happened in the economy and management of the schools;" and public notice was ordered to be given by the secretary, "in the Germantown Dutch Newspaper."

At that meeting, "after some time spent in conferring thereon," the Board came to the following conclusions:

"That no persons shall be obliged to pay any more than 2 | 6 for each scholar to purchase fire-wood for the ensuing year."

"George Alsentz, Christopher Sower, John Jones and Nicholas Rittenhouse are appointed a committee to receive the applications of such as conceive themselves incapable to pay the present price settled for schooling and firewood, and report their proceedings herein to next meeting in order that the Board may consider on what may be further necessary to be done therein."

In regard to the improper use of the schoolhouse it was "resolved that there be no ironing or other work done or any fires kept in the said upper rooms after night, and that it be particularly recommended to the English Schoolmaster to take care that this resolve be literally and duly fulfilled."

"The English School Master" was very peremptorily directed not to send boys on errands during school hours. He was permitted to retain his boarders "until the 15th of June next, but not to engage for any more." The last minute of this important meeting is here given in full:

"The Board at the same time maturely deliberating on one of the intentions of erecting this Union Schoolhouse which was that the inhabitants of Germantown might reap some benefit by taking in Boarders who might be sent to said school, do direct that such of the members of this Board as reside in this town should immediately recommend it to such of the inhabitants as are desirous of taking in Boarders that they publish an advertisement in the Dutch and English newspapers expressive of their inclination to do so in order that the benefit resulting from dieting and lodging of youth may be enjoyed by them."

As a commentary on the original purposes of founding this Institution of Learning, these resolutions and decisions of the Trustees, acting under the immediate inspiration of the contributors, are of great moment in determining fully what those purposes were. At the proper time and in its logical connection, the bearing of these deliberations will receive full consideration.

At the next meeting in February it was found that the committee appointed for the purpose could find none "that might think themselves unable to pay the present rate for schooling their children"—"no one person appeared" before the committee.

No one will be misled by the peculiar style and some of the quaint words and expressions in these extracts from the minutes, and fail to appreciate the straightforward business-like air, the judicial discrimination and accuracy of the statements, and the honest aim of all to do that which was thought to be best for the school and for the whole community. It was not the only effort of that time to make "a little money" out of a school, but also to enjoy what all felt to be advantages that were in value beyond that which can be computed in dollars! None of the contributors expected ever to receive any "stock dividends." They only claimed the incidental advantages of boarding the students. This was perfectly legitimate and commendable; and it is certain that if the custom of accommodating students at the genial homes of the excellent families that then composed the village had been fully established and persevered in, it would have promoted the permanent welfare of the school in the very best manner possible. Most communities have yet to learn that a first-rate school, under the influence of high Christian motives and inspiration, is always worth all it costs in money; and that a cheap school, under bad discipline and the inspiration of money-making, is an abomination that ought to be shunned as a moral pestilence.

COMPLAINTS, CONTINUED.

At a meeting in May, 1763, a committee was appointed to employ "a proper School-mistress," and one of the upper rooms was set apart for a school for "their daughters and young children in reading, writing, &c., &c.," if the number offered should be enough to support a mistress. At the same meeting it was

"Ordered that no person in future be admitted as a scholar into the 'English School' but upon application first made to two of the Trustees who are hereby declared to be the judges of the propriety of such admission, and that the Master shall

not receive any child or scholar in the said school but upon the receipt of a permit agreeable to the resolution of the 4th of Sept., 1761."

"Ordered that the Schoolmaster may retain his present Boarders (amounting to the number of twenty) as long as they shall incline to remain with him, and that he take no new boarders unless his present number be reduced to less than sixteen, and then only such as shall make up the said number of sixteen."

When it is considered that the English schoolmaster occupied the small west wing with two small rooms on the first floor, and probably two on the second floor, it is difficult to imagine how he, in any manner consistent with modern notions of propriety, disposed of twenty boarders in addition to his disorderly servant girls. It is evident he used a part of the schoolhouse, but how he could do that with the three separate schools in it and still another room ready for a girls' school, indicates either great skill in housekeeping, under difficulties, or a disposition on the part of his patrons to be easily satisfied with their accommodations.

Two facts, at least, may be very readily inferred from the statements here made; first, that there was a very pressing demand for a boarding school in Germantown at that time, and secondly, that Master Dove had a very excellent reputation abroad in order to draw to himself such a large number and hold them under such unfavorable circumstances.

Notwithstanding the strictures of the Trustees upon his management, implied in the above orders, it is in evidence that they still had great confidence in him; because when Usher Wood resigned, they "ordered that the English Master (as soon as may be) procure a proper person to serve in the station of Usher."

But on the 24th of June of the same year the whole matter culminated in a determination to dismiss the English Schoolmaster, with the reasons annexed, which are most forcibly expressed in the following minute:

"This Board being informed that the present English Schoolmaster, David James Dove, publicly declared in the presence of one of them, that he would not obey the resolutions of the Board of Trustees any longer than until he had his building finished which he is now erecting contiguous to the schoolhouse; thereby trampling on the authority of the said Trustees, and effectually subverting the order and *economy* of the said school; moreover it was proved to the satisfaction of this Board, that the said David James Dove has, in several instances, behaved himself in a very unjustifiable manner, tending very much to the injurious education of said School.

"Wherefore it is unanimously resolved, to remove the said David James Dove from the office of English Schoolmaster of said school, with this condition that he may remain three months from this time, to occupy that station (but no longer), provided he conducts in a sober, decent and regular manner during the said time."

"As soon as the Board had formed the above resolution of removing the said D. James Dove from the station aforesaid, they desired him to attend them at their Chamber, when they immediately informed him of their said resolve, to which he immediately acquiesced by replying in these words: 'It is very well, gentlemen.'"

Such a minute in regard to Master Dove, and the evidently dramatic attitude of the two parties concerned, indicate that there were grave causes for this removal, while, at the same time, there is a display of generous magnanimity upon the part of the Trustees in the long toleration they proposed to give the deposed and erring Master, that excites one's admiration. All that is here recorded of Mr. Dove, and all that can be learned of him from other sources, presents him as a moral enigma. He must have been a man of no ordinary ability in order to secure this position, to retain it so long, to gather around him so large a school, and as far as we can learn, main-

tain his hold upon his pupils up to the very moment that he was removed with so much apparent feeling. And yet there are no records left to show that he accomplished anything by the enterprise he undertook in opposition to the Trustees. It seems to have been a total failure.

At the same meeting a committee was appointed to procure another English master; and another committee "to issue an advertisement in the next English Gazette, and Christopher Sower's Dutch newspaper" giving notice of a meeting of contributors to be held on the 8th of August next for the purpose of changing the annual elections from January 1, to the first Thursday of May. The list of contributors present at this meeting, August 8, 1763, was 44, all of whom voted to make the change, and the change was made.

It does not appear from the minutes, on what day the school first opened. As early as April 3, 1761, it was determined that the pay of Mr. Dove should commence, whether the house was ready or not, at the middle of the next June. On the 3d of July, the house was not yet ready, and "it was proposed that the school be kept in the upper rooms until the lower room be got ready," and a committee was appointed to consult with the Managers of the Building in regard to the practicability of such a plan.

At a meeting on the 17th of July, Benjamin Engle and others stated that "the Managers agreeable to this request had set the people to work on what seemed necessary to the schoolhouse so that it is hoped the same will be in forwardness so as to be fit to open the school in two or three weeks."

It was found necessary to raise a special fund by subscription in order to employ Thomas Pratt, at £60 a year, as Usher; and this amount was reported, at a meeting held on the 4th of August, to be fully subscribed, and Mr. Pratt was then employed as "Usher to the English School," to enter upon duty on "*Second-day next, when said School is intended to be opened.*" The next meeting was held on the 4th of September, 1761, when it is said: "As the School is now opened, it appears necessary that some general rules should be fixed for the good order and government of the same, wherefore Joseph Galloway, Thomas Yorke, David Deshler and Thomas Wharton are appointed a committee to prepare a draft of the same, to be produced to our next meeting." From which it would appear that the proposition above hinted at, on the 4th of August, to open the school on the "next second day," was probably carried out. It is most probable therefore that the *School opened on the Second Monday, being the 11th day of August, 1761.*

William Dewees agreed to furnish the school with 16 cords of hickory wood, delivered in good season, at 24p. a cord; and two suitable stoves were ordered to be bought by a committee who were to "remind Michael Heligass of his promise of giving one to the Institution."

From this standpoint, it seems eminently proper to take a rapid view of what had been done in other places towards founding Institutions of Learning, and make some comparison of those efforts with what was done for the same purpose in Germantown one hundred and sixteen years ago.

THE TIME FIXED—OTHER SIMILAR ENTERPRISES.

It is quite interesting to fix the time of the founding of the Academy, by comparing it with the dates of other events. This may be done first by calling to mind the settlement of the place, and other facts more or less familiar to all. These will at once show its claim to an honorable antiquity. Daniel Francis Pastorius bought the site of Germantown, and much additional territory from William Penn, in 1683.

It was surveyed at once, and laid out in town lots, in 1687, fifty-five in number, twenty-seven and a half on each side of Main street. These were distributed among the owners, in 1689, by lot. Just seventy-seven years after this first occupation of this place the foundations of this school were laid.

Wishart Levering, one of the first settlers, who was forty-seven years of age when he came over, died seventeen years before the opening of the school. The illustrious Pastorius himself had been dead but forty years. Doctor Christopher Witt, the last of the learned conjurers, and of those who cast nativities, died in 1765, six years after the commencement of the undertaking. The last of the Germantown Hermits died the same year. The whole movement was in the strongest sense of the word democratic, although it took place seventeen years before the immortal Declaration of Independence.

Bearing in mind the wealth and population of the community, no educational enterprise here, or anywhere else, has been undertaken with which it would suffer in comparison. All things considered, the most recent effort of the Public School enterprise in this place, grand and costly as it is, will not compare with what these contributors did in 1760-1761. Indeed nothing is more evident than that if these men had pushed their advantages, Germantown must have become a seat of learning, not less noted than those now most widely known. Why they did not proceed with the same large views and noble enterprise that at first gave such wonderful promise, it is not now in place to discuss; but the merits of the question will not be overlooked at the proper time. A comparison of the date of the founding of the school with the dates of similar institutions in other places is a very inviting theme; but it is not within the scope of the present papers to attempt anything elaborate in that direction. A few reflections however cannot be amiss, as they may serve to show what advantage we had over most places in regard to time and means; and how easily the first position among them might have been held, by a little wider range of views upon the part of those who succeeded the first founders in the management of the Academy.

The first attempt to establish a school of any public character in Philadelphia, that has fallen under the writer's observation, was in 1741, only eighteen years previous to the great work undertaken by the contributors here. That enterprise was prompted by even more intense religious feeling than this; and was at first sectarian. The evangelical power and incomparable eloquence of Whitefield had moved the minds and hearts of the whole people, and it was under that inspiration that the Philadelphia Academy was founded and pressed to an early completion, as a means of educating young men for the Christian ministry to supply the demands created by the large number of new converts and new churches. That enterprise was not carried forward with equal prudence, or completed with nearly so much despatch. It was not ready for occupation till 1744, and then it was embarrassed with a large debt. Franklin procured its purchase in 1749, with some sectarian reservations, for £777, a sum not much more than half the first cost of these Germantown buildings. What prosperity attended that enterprise may be inferred from the fact that in 1753 there were "sixty-five boys from the neighboring colonies" in attendance. Their next step of progress was to secure a College Charter in 1753, and elect Dr. Wm. Smith provost. It next shared in the division of £13,000 collected in England for the colleges of New York and Philadelphia. That was in the year 1761, the year that our Academy opened. There was yet before that institution a long, doubtful struggle, before it attained its present commanding position among the great educational powers of the country. Nothing but rich friends and large gifts and endowments

could have saved it from even a worse fate than our Academy. In regard to other of the older and best known great institutions, Harvard College was chartered in 1642, after four years' doubtful experiment, commencing with £780—about the amount that Franklin paid for the Old Academy of Philadelphia, about a century afterwards; and a little more than half the first cost of these buildings of our old Academy. Yale was chartered in 1701, and after three removals found a permanent rest in New Haven, in 1716; The College of New Jersey, in 1746; Brown University, in 1764; Dartmouth College, 1769; Rutgers, in 1770; Williams, in 1793; Lafayette, in 1826. In regard to the latter, it might properly be said that it had as little prospect of becoming a great institution of learning, and a famous educational power, twenty years ago, as this Academy has now. But its present very prominent position among the Colleges of this country, its magnificent buildings and its vast increase of wealth and in number of students, stand out as one of the most remarkable examples of what can be done by earnest Christian effort and perseverance to command the means to carry forward a grand educational enterprise.

It has not been the intention to intimate by the foregoing comparisons that Germantown Academy has ever attained to a position among the Institutions named that would give it a claim to an equal rank with any of them. But it must appear very evident to the reader that the cause of the failure did not lie with the founders, or with the foundation laid for a successful institution of learning.

It was the purpose of the writer to strengthen this position by a brief sketch of the descendants of its early friends and supporters down to the present, and identify them with the families of the same name that still have their residence here; and this will yet be done as far as it is possible to collect the necessary information. But instead of this course it will be necessary now to proceed with a narrative of the management of the school up to the time when it obtained its first Charter in 1784.

The second English Master was Peletiah Webster, at a salary of £100. He was chosen August 17th, and entered upon his work August 24th, 1763. He continued until April, 1766. There are unmistakable proofs that he was a man of liberal education and an enterprising teacher. It is much in his favor that the Board of Trustees were stirred up to discuss some of the problems of teaching and managing a school that have more recently commanded the attention of the most enlightened educators in this country and Europe. Some of these discussions it will be well to refer to more in detail. He took the Night School into his own hands, instead of leaving it to the usher, and managed it very successfully for a term of four months and more, during the fall and winter. He must have given stimulus to an effort to procure a Charter from the Legislature, for at the Contributors' Meeting, January 2, 1764, this matter was put into the hands of a Committee, consisting of Wm. Logan, Esq., Edward Millner, Christian Lehman and Paul Engle, Junr., who were instructed to consult with a committee to be appointed by the Board of Trustees, "upon petitioning the Governor for that purpose." The committee of the Board of Trustees were Joseph Galloway, Geo. Alsentz, Jacob Neglee and John Jones. This committee was instructed to call upon Wm. Logan, "and endeavor to prevail upon him to execute the above piece of service for said school; wherefore Richard Johnson, Geo. Alsentz, Jacob Neglee and John Jones are requested to inform him of the opinion of this Board." This was bringing influence to bear in something like modern times. But it all availed nothing; for it does not appear that any Charter was obtained till after the time of the Revolution.

But graver subjects engaged the attention of the Board, at this meeting of March

3, 1764, and such as taxed all their literary and scientific skill. The gravity and importance of the topics, as they weighed upon the minds of the Trustees, will be best expressed in the words of the minute made upon the occasion :

" This Board taking into their consideration the present economy and management of the school under the superintendency of Peletiah Webster, the present English Master, came to the following proposals, viz., Whether the mode of instruction generally followed in schools should be pursued, or whether the English tongue should be taught Grammatically, attended with lectures; and whether arithmetic, the mathematics, logic, &c., should be taught in the customary manner, or whether they should all be taught with lectures, and an additional sum paid for the teaching of them in the latter manner."

Now that learned and astute Webster must have chuckled to himself as he sat apart in his own chamber, while in imagination he saw these thirteen honest, earnest men grapple with this knotty problem, of whose elements most of them must have been most profoundly ignorant, and about the proper mode of whose solution they could not have had any practical knowledge. None but practical teachers were capable of giving it an intelligent consideration then; as none but practical teachers now can successfully manage the details of the best methods of teaching. But at that time a teacher was a subordinate factor in the school problem. Since that time, however, there has been a great change of opinion on the subject, and in most places the whole supervision and management of schools, and the proper methods of instructing, are wholly committed to educated and experienced teachers. No great city any longer attempts the management of its schools except by means of the aid of the very best teaching talent that can be obtained for their immediate supervision.

But these are much more modern ideas, and no one can fail to regard their serious discussion and the matured deliverances of these faithful guardians of the infant academy with admiration and profound respect. The deliverances of this meeting were more than half a century ahead of the times in which they were made, and may be referred to with advantage by many now-a-days who deem themselves much wiser than their fathers. It does not appear that Master Webster was admitted to the chamber where the Board sat, during its grave deliberations; but one cannot help but feel the force of his influence, although left to muse apart by himself.

The minute continues. The Board having deliberated and debated upon the foregoing considerations and proposals; " Resolved, that the instructions of the youth in the Languages Grammatically, and with suitable lectures at the same time, and also in Arithmetic, Mathematics, History, Logic and other Branches of Learning, with Lectures, will undoubtedly tend to the most effectual advancement of the knowledge of the scholars and also to the reputation of the school: But the Board is nevertheless of the opinion, That every parent and guardian should have in his election to direct whether his child or ward shall be taught in the above manner, or in the usual mode taught in common schools; wherefore, notwithstanding the usefulness of teaching the scholars the languages grammatically and with lectures, and the sciences also with lectures; yet many parents and guardians may not incline to have their children or wards taught in any other manner than what has been heretofore practiced in this school. The present master, therefore, and all future masters who may preside in the English School here, shall be obliged himself to hear each scholar three times a week, who is taught reading, writing, Arithmetic, etc., in the said common mode."

The rates of charge were then fixed for the future as follows :

"The Dead Languages," per annum,	£ 3. 10s.
"The English Tongue Grammatically,"	3. —
"Reading, Writing, &c., in the common manner,"	— 40

The minute continues : "The Board taking into consideration the difficulty that attends the education of children, when parents, &c., are at their liberty to furnish them with such books as they think proper, are unanimously of the opinion, That the parents, &c., should from time to time, supply their children with such books as the present School Master thinks most likely to answer the end of their schooling. Therefore the Board earnestly recommends this resolution to the immediate execution of such parents and guardians who have, or hereafter shall have, any children at this school, and the Clerk is desired to furnish the School Master with a copy of the foregoing resolves."

The first of these resolutions could not have been very satisfactory to the enthusiastic Master Webster; but he certainly felt the benefit of the latter in the management of his school; and no modern Board of Education could have a clearer conception of duty, or express the duty of patrons in more definite language. How many Philadelphia Teachers have enjoyed the good fruits of this early action in the right direction!

A very high compliment was paid to the English Master by the Board, at this meeting; for it was "Ordered that Samuel Wharton do form an advertisement and cause the same to be immediately published in the Gazette, expressive of there being a good school kept at this place, where Latin, Greek and English are taught Grammatically; as also Writing, Arithmetic, Mathematics, Surveying, &c., by a Master well informed in the Languages and Sciences . . . and that there are many reputable families in Germantown where children may be decently and reasonably boarded." Master Webster had now been in the school about eight months and had brought about a good state of feeling between himself and his patrons. The school had certainly attained a very excellent reputation, and needed only mutual forbearance and co-operation to insure a very rapid progress in the future.

INCIDENTS, RULES.

At a meeting of the Trustees, May 8, 1764, a committee was appointed to present a petition to John Penn, Esq., Governor, asking for the grant of a Charter, with a view to having the petition in his hands as soon as possible, and to sending the draft of the Charter desired as soon as it could be prepared.

At the next meeting, nine of the members of the Board "were present at hearing several of the classes in Latin and English Grammar, who performed their exercises very much to the satisfaction of the Board."

In August, 1764, a committee previously appointed, made a statement of the condition of the funds, which shows that all the moneys on hand and due the school, amounted to £213. 13s. 10d.; £32. 3s. 4½d. being a cash balance in the hands of the Treasurer; £74. 10s. unpaid subscriptions for the support of an Usher; £82. 10s. 6d. in small, unpaid subscriptions for the Building Fund; and £34 unpaid tuition. In addition to this the committee mention £50 due from the estate of the late Thomas York, "said to be retained . . . on account of an action against the lottery managers."

On November 23, of this year, it was determined to make a radical change in the organization of the school; by which the "Latin School" should be separated

from the English, and the latter placed under an independent master; lower rates of tuition were fixed for the branches in the English school, "reading, writing, and cyphering," and the salary of the Latin master was made to depend upon the number of his pupils. A committee was appointed to judge and determine on the expediency of removing the German school up stairs for the winter session. Did the German school at this early period give evidence of decline? There was certainly much inconvenience already experienced in teaching the Latin in connection with the primary pupils. In March of the next year, 1765, about the time it was proposed to put the above new plan of organization in operation, the "Latin Master," P. Webster, resigned; but after "a voyage to South Carolina" he returned and opened school again, about the middle of July. In March of the next year, 1766, the "Latin master, P. Webster, left the institution," and at his request a committee was appointed to give him a recommendation "relative to his conduct whilst here."

After a short interval the "Latin School" was revived, and Abel Green was appointed master, at a salary of £60 a year, and in addition whatever the proceeds of tuition might exceed this amount; with privilege to "lodge in the westerly room, middle story." After repeated efforts, since the first opening of the school, to have rules prepared and reported by a committee, (October 31, 1766,) eight "rules and orders were made and enjoined to be observed by the masters and scholars of the Germantown Union School."

The first rule requires the sessions to be in the winter from 9 A. M. to 12, and from 2 P. M. to a time not mentioned; and in summer from 8 A. M. to 12, and the school to assemble at 2 P. M. again. The 2d, 3d and 4th makes inexcusable *tardiness* or *absence*, or truancy, or neglect of duty, punishable at the discretion of the master. The 5th and 6th forbid pupils to leave the room without permission of the master; or to play in or about the schoolhouse after school is dismissed. The 7th requires "every scholar when abroad to treat all people with civility, modesty and good manners, more especially their known superiors and elders; *and when at home, their own parents, &c., with all dutiful respect and affection.*" The 8th says, "That the master shall punish or correct every scholar for any misdemeanor, neglect of duty or disorderly behavior in such manner as they shall in their discretion judge to be proper and *equal to the offense committed.*" The 9th "and lastly," requires these rules to be read before the school the first thing that is done on *every Monday morning.*

These rules must give rise to many reflections in the mind of the reader, as he is led to compare them with the present methods of conducting schools.

In May, 1767, it was found that it would be "impracticable to support" the "Latin School" during the next year; and the master was informed that his services would not be needed after the close of the current year. At the end of this year, there was the small balance of £7. 8s. 6d. in the treasury.

It is proper to remark here that this action of the Board does not necessarily indicate that there was any less interest felt in the school than formerly; nor that the study of Latin and Greek had become less popular or desirable. It is not a *peculiarity of this Institution* that there has been a somewhat regular ebb and flow of attendance at intervals of four or five years; for such is the history of all schools depending upon local support, in which the attendance at best does not rise much above a hundred. It is in the nature of the case, that when one class of boys becomes educated and passes out of the school, that an interval of thin attendance in such a school should occur. A few disaffected patrons, withdrawing their support and using their influence against the school, have it in their power to break down the proper organization of classes and compel it to close or drag out a nominal existence for some

time, until new patronage is secured. Germantown Academy has been afflicted in this way during all its long history; and to-day the same chronic disease gnaws at its vitals with no less prospects of bringing its career to a disgraceful end, than when this Latin school was abandoned, more than a hundred years ago, for want of support. It was a great mistake to discourage Master Dove, when the boarding pupils were pouring in upon him. It would have been wiser, no doubt, to have erected a large house for the accommodation of boarders, and to have offered the very best possible inducements for the very largest numbers from abroad, to fill up the ranks of the school, and, by means of these, it would have been possible to tide over these intervals when the local support, from any cause, was not sufficient to pay expenses. It cannot be doubted that the families desiring it would have had more boarders than they did have, by the course the Trustees were compelled to pursue, when they directed Master Dove to limit the number of his boarders to sixteen. Since that means of support had failed, there was one other method left open, by which, if pursued, the school might have been placed beyond the danger of failure, for want of a continuous local support. But the discussion of that method will be left to a more appropriate occasion. No school of small numbers can hope for any continuous respectable existence without an Endowment Fund sufficiently large to pay the salary of a principal, and all the necessary current expenses. A school of small capacity, depending on local support, may enjoy brief periods of great vigor; but it cannot have perennial vitality and efficiency.

A CHEAP SCHOOL TRIED—A SCHOOLMISTRESS TAKES THE PLACE OF
THE LATIN MASTER—THE SCHOOL BROKEN UP BY THE WAR.

The change in the management now made cannot be better stated than by copying *verbatim et literatim* the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees for June 4, 1767, omitting the names of the trustees present at that meeting.

"The Board taking into consideration a proposal of Margaret Thomas of keeping a mistress' school in one of the upper or middle rooms of the school-house; as several of the trustees present are well acquainted with her, the said Margaret and her character, which is allowed to be unexceptionable, and is also allowed to be very capable of managing such an undertaking to satisfaction: It is, therefore, agreed that she have liberty to open and keep school in the back room over the Dutch school-room, when the present Latin master's time is up, and she is allowed the front room, over said Dutch school-room, for a lodging-room, and may take possession of the last mentioned room as soon as it may suit her convenience. Subject nevertheless to be removed by order of the Board of Trustees at any time hereafter upon having three months previous notice for that purpose."

"Two convenient benches" were ordered "for the mistress's school." At the next meeting, June 19, 1767, "the Board finally settled all accounts with Abel Evans, the Latin master, and paid his last year's salary in full and he is honorably discharged." There were no more meetings of the Board during this year, and no recorded meeting during the next year, 1768, except a meeting of the contributors for the election of Trustees. During these two years the absence of some of the strong men of the Board is very noticeable at the few meetings that were held. Although but little is said on the subject, the funds of the institution were low, and there must have been some serious embarrassment. It would be gratifying to know how the accomplished Margaret succeeded with her school; but the minutes are wholly silent on that subject. Nothing of any interest is recorded until March, 1774,

when John Downy, who had succeeded John Woods as English master, resigned his position, and Thomas Dungan, "producing a certificate of his capacity and good character from the Trustees of the Academy of Philadelphia," was chosen master of the English school for one year, at a salary of £60, together with the proceeds of a night school, and the privilege of taking in such boarders as may offer. *For the first time in the history of the school*, the master was required to collect the tuition at the rate of 5 shillings a quarter for those who "read and spell;" 7s. 6d. for those who "write and cypher," and such sums as he could bargain for in case of those who took "mathematics or Latin;" the trustees pledged themselves for the £60 a year, and to aid in collecting from delinquents.—Under this master there was a great revival of interest in the school, and a better attendance of pupils. In August, 1774, he reports 57 on his list; and in February, 1775, he reports 43 in school, that have paid their tuition, and 6 that having paid had left school. For the next year the master took the school at his own risk to make as much out of it as he could; and proposed to the trustees to apply for a charter, which proposition they took under consideration. In August, 1775, a committee, consisting of Christopher Sower, Jno. Jones and Israel Pemberton, were "directed to inspect the title deeds of the school-house lot, the original subscription papers, and such other papers or books as are in the hands or care of Thos. Rose, belonging to this community, and to report at the next meeting whether any reconveyance is necessary as part of the trustees first named are deceased, or whether anything appears necessary to be done respecting the subscription papers, &c., &c." These inquiries were prosecuted, no doubt, with scrupulous care, but no report of the committee is found upon record in the minutes. Although the war excitement does not seem at this time to have affected the meetings of the Board of Trustees or much disturbed the quiet little inland town, the storm was gathering, and it must soon break upon them with all its fury and devastating power. The brief minute of August 15, 1776, is as follows: "By reason of the troublesome times and othe^r matters interfering, none of the trustees did meet according to the notice given by the clerk as usual." Frequent efforts were made to hold meetings, but no quorum could be brought together until July, 1777, and then it is recorded that "Thos. Dungan, the master of the English school, having been some months past engaged in public employment in the American army, which he is not likely soon to leave," Geo. Murray of New York, recommended by Daniel Stiles as qualified to teach "the mathematics and the English and Greek languages," was permitted to use part of the school-house as a dwelling, and take temporary charge of the school until the return of Thos. Dungan. The German master was eventually disturbed in the quiet, even tenor of his way, and he hastened to the trustees for protection in his rights.

It is recorded, August 12th, 1777, that "The German master informed the trustees that an officer from the army had called upon him, and informed him that he had orders to bring and lodge some of the sick soldiers from General Washington's army in the Germantown Union school the next day; and as the English school, which was to begin soon, would not only thereby be interrupted, but also the German school be entirely broken up, the trustees thought it their duty to oppose it as much as it lays in their power. A Board of Trustees being now called together and an officer from the army present, he agreed to lodge the sick from the army in the Poor House of this town, if they would give him lieve, and to remove the poor to any other convenient house for a short time. The board ordered to call the overseers of the poor to know the number of the poor and the state of the Poor House;

whereupon it was agreed by a number of the freeholders, that a town meeting of the freeholders should be called together by the said overseers; and an advertisement being set up, and given to the cryer, John Nice, to call on the inhabitants to meet this afternoon at two or three o'clock, in order to consider of some other house or place for said sick soldiers.

"A great number of said freeholders meeting according to notice given, at the said school house; but as they differed in their opinions and sentiments, a great many went away without giving their vote. Israel Pemberton went the next day to Philadelphia to consult with President Hancock, and the sick soldiers were next day brought from the army to the hospital in Philadelphia without giving any more trouble to the inhabitants of Germantown." This entire note is given as one of deepest interest. How little did the inhabitants of Germantown then know what was just before them! In less than a month from this energetic refusal to take charge of those sick patriot soldiers, the alarm of an approaching British army spread dismay among the people of Philadelphia, and multitudes left their homes and fled for safety. On the 25th of September the British army entered Germantown and encamped, the foreign mercenaries, especially, being a great cause of terror to friend and foe; for they knew no difference. Early in the morning of October 4th, the fury of battle raged in all parts of the ancient borough, blighting many a hitherto happy home, and leaving in ruins the fairest and best portions of the town. Notwithstanding all this, the annual election for trustees was held on the 7th day of May, 1778, and a full Board was chosen, consisting of Israel Pemberton, John Vanderen, Philip Benezel, John and George Brighthurst, Christopher Laashet, Justus Fox, Wm. Ashmead, Jno. Bockius, Christopher Sower, Frederick Mehl, Charles Hay and John Johnson—Angu Neiser was chosen treasurer. In October, 1778, there was a meeting of the trustees, and it is noted, that "on account of the distressed times no German and English school has been kept this good while." Half of the building was given to a "German master, John Augustus Edert . . . to keep a school in . . . at what price he can agree with the parents or masters of the scholars."

At this point in the history a blank occurs in the minutes, extending to November 1, 1784, when the first meeting of those appointed trustees under the first charter was held in order to effect an organization. John F. Watson, in 1834, inserts a note here, that is witnessed by Thomas Magarge, stating that he could not learn that any record of this school during this period had ever been found; and he adds that "The teacher Dungan became a captain."

LOTTERY SCHEMES—OTHER CAUSES OF DECLINE—EARNEST STRUGGLES OF TRUE MEN.

In considering the history of Germantown Academy, we are studying the struggles and progress of the work of education not only in this place, but as it were in miniature, the rise and progress of the great systems or agencies for education in all this broad land. Before the time of the Revolution, and for many years after that period, the Germantown Union School comprised about all that was done for education in this place; and to be elected a member of the Board of Trustees was justly regarded as a mark of distinguished favor. No voluntary organization of those early times held together with such tenacity, and moved forward with such steady earnestness in the accomplishment of its benevolent and public-spirited undertaking.

The school had many of the essential elements of the present public school sys-

tem of this State and country, of whose praise we never weary, and to which the less favored nations of the earth look as a model; but one of the elements of that system—taxation instead of tuition bills—does not seem to have entered the minds of the founders. Whether this was a lack of wisdom on their part, or whether the present or a succeeding generation may discover that that mode of supporting schools is a radical error, and the founders of the old academy were right, we may now leave as a mootable question. Certain is it that their wisdom was taxed, like that of all the educators of that period, to the utmost extent to provide ways and means to pay teachers and other necessary expenses of their honored institution.

They at first deliberately gave, in large sums for the times, out of their own pockets, to supplement the proceeds of tuition, for the pay of teachers. Five pounds sterling, (or about \$25) in addition to their regular tuition bill, was an ordinary subscription for men in moderate circumstances. That this plan should have become burdensome and impracticable, is in accordance with the experience of more modern times. They cast about for other methods. The money must be had in some way or the school must go down for want of support. Would not indirect means prove more popular at least, if not so reliable and efficient as direct giving? Yes; everybody was using lottery schemes, and why should not these sober earnest men do like other people?

It is a well-known fact that during the latter part of the last century and the early part of this, these lottery schemes, that are now placed under the ban of the State, and held in just contempt by all good citizens, were resorted to for the advancement of every good cause. It became a rage and a madness! Efforts were made to endow colleges and schools, to build churches, and to carry forward all benevolent enterprises by the "lottery." At an evil moment the Union School was led to look to this means for help. But as in most cases very little help came; but much distraction and weakness. The scheme was never formally instituted by the Trustees, but was foisted upon them; it may be by sincere and honest persons, but most likely by designing gamblers.

The first mention of the subject in the minutes is in April, 1762, when the Board took "into consideration the unsettled state of the lottery set on foot for the benefit of the school," and apparently at the suggestion of certain gentlemen called "managers," a committee was appointed to meet them at Philadelphia. Joseph Galloway was appointed to take the lead in the business. During the next month it was found that several of the managers of the lottery had balances in their hands belonging to the school, and measures were taken to get possession of those balances. Mr. Galloway succeeded in collecting £93. 12s. 11d., but the treasurer, John Bowman, for some reason not stated, refused to receive the money, and it was placed in the hands of a special agent to appropriate it to the payment of debts due. In December of the same year lottery money was paid, in part, by Thomas York and James Child, amounting to £270. 11s. 4d. But out of this there had to be paid to William Moor, "money advanced by him to pay off some of the prizes of said lottery," £191. 2s. 1½d., leaving but a meagre show for the benefit of the school; considering that the lottery was still in an unsettled state, but this balance was never permitted to come into the treasurer's hands, as appears in the report of the contributors' committee on the treasurer's account, January 1, 1763. But one other allusion is made to the subject during this period, and that was in regard to a certain amount held in reserve by Thomas York, pending an action brought against the managers of the lottery, several years afterward. There is something relating to this matter found among the loose papers belonging to the academy; but the whole history of the connection of

the school with lotteries has an air of mystery and concealment that must characterize such methods of making money, and which has banished them from the domain of respectable business transactions, and in almost every State has led to such legislation as makes it a crime to deal in lottery tickets. The school, like many others, was certainly injured rather than benefited by it; and it may have been one of the earliest and most potent causes that led to that decline in its efficient management which continued for ten years, and was only temporarily arrested by master Dungan in 1774. The Trustees, apparently despairing of their own ability to manage the finances, after standing by him with a pledge of £60 for the first year, gave the whole matter into his hands to make what he could out of it. He gave promise of great success, but his patriotism led him to abandon the quiet walks of the teacher and enter upon the rough and rugged duties of the soldier.

Another cause of the decline during this period was the eminent success of the Philadelphia Academy, by which many pupils were drawn to that institution of learning, which had already gained much distinction and wielded a great influence. That school was undoubtedly sustained by more religious enthusiasm than it was ever the good fortune of this to inspire; and no school in this country has long prospered, or attained to any eminent distinction, until it has been taken hold of, and nourished, and sustained by the religious people of the community. But aside from this view of the case, the Germantown School, as has been before observed, had lost its opportunity when its Trustees had failed to encourage the building up of a boarding school. It operated against it also that no earnest effort was made to accumulate an endowment fund, as was the case with the Philadelphia Academy. The result of this was that the proceeds of local patronage would not furnish the means to provide the school with first-class teachers.

There were other things to contend with, but there is no need of any further enumeration of them here. The contributors and their chosen Trustees manfully battled with all opposition that presented itself, and kept the school almost constantly in session, winter and summer, until ruthless war interposed, against which no mortal power could make successful opposition.

It is to be remarked that *female* as well as *male* teachers were employed, almost from the very first. No doubt the Trustees had a double object in view: both economy and efficiency. The public school system would not, and probably could not, be sustained to-day, were it not for the fact that women can be employed at cheaper rates than men; and what is still better, they have proved to be the best teachers in some departments. Certainly it was a matter of dire necessity to supplant the Latin master by a female teacher of very ordinary qualifications; but it was no doubt the very best that honest and earnest men could do under the circumstances to keep life in the school; and in the light of that fact the policy may have been the wisest and best.

It is particularly noteworthy that each newly elected Board of Trustees arranged themselves in committees to visit the school every month, in order to support and encourage the teachers; and they bound themselves to this duty under the penalty of a fine in case of failure to be in attendance on all occasions when required. Sometimes this practice seems to have fallen into disuse, but it was soon revived again with great earnestness and still increased penalties for failure in duty. All honor to those persevering and faithful guardians of the interests of education in the Colonial times! With what just pride may any man boast that their blood still courses through his veins!

THE HIATUS OF WAR TIMES—A HEREDITARY SCHOOL.

Although no minutes of any meetings of the contributors or of the trustees can be found, during the period from 1778 to 1784, it is most probable that care was taken to hold such informal meetings as would preserve the title to the property intact, and that many efforts were put forth to keep up the schools, both German and English. Among the last meetings of the Board of Trustees, before the disturbances of the war, a good committee was appointed to look into the "title deeds," and to the fact that they had legal possession of all the property. The war times produced great changes in the place, and from various causes that need not here be enumerated the society of Germantown was greatly broken up and scattered. Families that had hitherto been kept together were separated; many moved to Philadelphia or elsewhere, never to return; others were reduced from affluence to penury; estates rapidly changed hands; new residents frequented the abodes of ancient ones and there was, in a word, such a revolution in affairs as to nearly break up the continuous history of the place. Nevertheless, the interests of the Academy were jealously watched over by such as remained.

Many of the men who held positions in the Board of Trustees, before the time of the Revolution, are still represented by their descendants who now hold places of membership in the same board, or have done so in recent years. The President, Mr. Norton Johnson, has already been referred to. It may now be stated that John Cook Channon, the present secretary and treasurer, descends directly from John Koch (Cook), who entered the board in 1767. Wm. Ashmead, M. D., and his cousin, the late Albert Ashmead, who have been trustees for many years past, and the staunchest and most earnest friends of the institution, are the grandsons of Wm. Ashmead, who became a contributor in 1766, was chosen trustee in 1778, and was one of the faithful few who stood guard during the perilous times. He died in 1815. Samuel Ashmead became a trustee in 1775. He was an uncle of Wm. Ashmead. Large and liberal patronage has been given to the Academy by this well-known and wealthy family, during all the long period of its existence—sometimes having three or four of the name in the board for years in succession. It has no more earnest friend to-day than Dr. W. Ashmead. Christian Lehman, who was chosen trustee in 1770, is now represented in the same office by a direct descendant, James F. Langstroth, who is known to be wealthy, and could no doubt make the Academy a present, if a plan of endowment were agreed upon, of more money than the whole of its property cost, and feel the effect of it less than any one of the original contributors felt the liberal gift that he made from his comparatively small means. Charles R. Bockius, one of the constant friends of the Academy, and a good representative of one of the highly respected families in Germantown, is in the direct line of descent from the Bockiuses of colonial times, two of whom, John Bockius, in 1768, and Godfrey Bockius, in 1775, were among those whom the contributors honored with a place on the Board of Trustees. Many of that name, and probably all of the same family connection, have been patrons and friends and trustees of the school. The large family connection of the Keyzers are also descendants of the colonial family of that name, which was represented by Jacob Keyser in the first Board of Trustees, chosen in 1760. No family in the place has a better claim to an honorable antiquity, and none are prouder of their history and their ancestry. Nicholas Rittenhouse elected trustee in 1762, and a great favorite with the contributors and hence frequently re-elected, was a member of one of the families that earliest settled the

place, and still remain in great strength and numbers. William Rittenhouse, one of two brothers that came to this country in 1683, settled in the little village now bearing his name, nestling in the narrow valley west of Germantown, leading down to the romantic Wissahickon—the other brother remaining in New Jersey—and soon after built the *first paper mill* of this region, and probably the first one established in Philadelphia or its vicinity. That mill was swept away by a flood in 1693. It occupied a place very near the present residence of Jonathan Rittenhouse, and not far from a small stone building that has engraved on a stone tablet in the gable the letters and date—"W. C. R. 1707"—giving evidence of its being one of the oldest houses of Germantown. The C is supposed to stand for "Claus," an abbreviation of Nicholas. In that same house, it seems probable the celebrated and world-renowned philosopher and financier, David Rittenhouse, was born; as it is well known that in that neighborhood he made some of those remarkable inventions and discoveries that first attracted the attention of Franklin, and afterwards, the learned men of Europe, and gave him a just claim to be regarded one of *the most original thinkers of the period*, on his favorite topics. But the Nicholas above referred to may not have been our trustee; for the probability is that he built that house in 1707, and would have been quite an old man at the time this trustee was elected. If it was not he, it certainly was a member of that family, which has furnished more than one trustee in later times.

Mr. Chas. B. Engle, of No. 5034 Germantown avenue, who occupies the old homestead of his great-grandfather, Benjamin Engle, a member of the first Board of Trustees in 1760, has shown me a receipt held by his father, running as follows:

"This is to certify that George Engle of Germantown hath contributed the sum of two pounds to the Union School-House of Germantown, and is thereby vested with all the Rights, Powers and Privileges of a Contributor to the said School-House. Witness my hand this 6th day of 5th mo., 1811.

"JOHN JOHNSON, *Treasurer.*"

Of the substantial manner in which this family supported the Academy from the earliest times, it will be in place to speak elsewhere. A certificate of similar import to the above, having exactly the same blank form, dated December, 1760, given to his great-grandfather, Frederick Mehl, a trustee of 1778, and signed by Richard Johnson, has been shown the writer by Edwin M. Mehl, who regards himself to be the only remaining representative of that once large family reaching back to colonial times.

These brief and imperfect hints serve to show how deeply interesting the subject might be made, if the necessary facts could be obtained, viewing it from this standpoint. The Academy, regarding it as an ancestral institution of learning, generously loved and highly honored by the colonial fathers of so many of the present families of Germantown and Philadelphia, and earnestly cherished for that reason by their descendants down to the present time, has the assurance that its honor, and integrity will be preserved to coming generations with the greatest watchfulness and care, and at any cost necessary to discharge the filial duty in a becoming manner. Those who have followed the narrative thus far will, I trust, be prepared to enter upon the post-revolutionary period with greatly quickened interest; and the promise is here given that it shall be traced with all the brevity that may be consistent with the nature of the history desired to be preserved. An attempt to show how this local effort, in some respects isolated and cut off by the nature of

the case from the general movement in the state, still developed in the progress of its history all the great phases of popular education, and gave rise to the discussion of many of the interesting educational questions of the last three-quarters of a century and more, will give the subject a much wider range of interest than that which it is hoped to awaken among the direct patrons and friends of the Academy.

The writer begs the indulgence of the families referred to in this brief and imperfect effort to connect the present with colonial times. He would be delighted to make the notices fuller and more worthy of the subject, but it has been very difficult to hunt up the facts in each case. Many families may be passed over that ought to be named.

ONE MORE CONNECTING LINK FOUND—THE CHARTER AND REORGANIZATION.

It has already been stated that the ground on which the Academy buildings stand was purchased of John and George Bringhurst. After some careful inquiry in regard to those gentlemen, and finding none of that name in Germantown, it was concluded that the family had either become extinct, or that all the surviving members of it had removed from the place. The following particulars have been given to the writer, and he trusts the example will be followed by the representatives of other families of colonial times that held official relations to the Academy.

John K. Gamble, the great-grandson of John Bringhurst, was elected a trustee of the Academy in 1860. His great-grandfather was elected a trustee in the year 1760—a century previous. The Academy was built on ground purchased from John and George Bringhurst. Mr. Gamble represented this ward in Select Council in the years 1856-57, and has been for the past four years a school-director of this, the 22d Section. His ancestors for the last four generations lie buried in the lower burying ground (Hood Cemetery), showing a remarkable attachment the family had for the place of their nativity. His great-great-grandfather, George Bringhurst, was buried in the cemetery in the year 1755; his great-grandfather, John Bringhurst, was buried there in 1794; his grandfather, Jesse Bringhurst, was buried there in 1822, and his mother's brother, John K. Bringhurst, in 1865; his mother, the daughter of Jesse Bringhurst, is still living, in the 82d year of her age.

Such items of the history of old families cannot but be most valuable and interesting to all who have any pride in the local history of the ancient borough of Germantown. As has already appeared, the institution was at that early period intimately connected with the whole history of the place; and it may be added, no one could desire a more honorable record for the home of his ancestors. In what other community was there such a united and persevering struggle to maintain a school of high order and develop a system of education in the face of great difficulties and in the midst of the most embarrassing circumstances? The brightest period in the history of the place will commence with the revival of that ancient pride in this dear old ancestral school; and the return to that liberal patronage of it that shall so far endow it as to make it a perennial fountain of blessing to the city and to the country at large.

The period of its history upon which we now enter will embrace one of those revivals of early enthusiasm, of which there have been many, and of various degrees of interest and practical results.

It has already been remarked that there is a hiatus in the minutes of the meetings

of both contributors and trustees, from October 14, 1778, to November 1, 1784, a period of nearly six years. Many meetings must have been held during this period, and most probably the *annual elections* for trustees, but the records have not been preserved; and it will never be able to be determined, whether the successful effort to secure an act of incorporation was the result of a movement set on foot before the war, or whether it was wholly a new movement on the part of those who were appointed members of the first set of trustees; or whether it was another general movement of the whole community, such as took place when the school was first founded. The recurrence of a number of the old names, such as Samuel Ashmead, William Ashmead, John Vanderen, the Bringhursts, Paul Engle, &c., among the permanent trustees appointed would seem to indicate a genuine and general revival of the whole community to the importance of the re-establishment and a re-organization of the school.

The first thing that meets us in the large and well-bound new book of minutes, is a copy of "An Act to establish and incorporate a Public School at Germantown, in the County of Philadelphia"—dated September 15, 1784; and immediately following it, "A supplement to an Act, entitled an act to establish," &c., dated September 6, 1786.

The Act of Incorporation makes at least one radical change in regard to the method of perpetuating the Board of Trustees, which it was the manifest purpose of the supplement to bring back, as nearly as possible, to the old constitution of the school. This will appear in a brief analysis of the two documents.

Section 1st recites the history of the school and gives the reasons for the act, and quoting the "frame of government," which said, "That a school or schools shall be established in each county by the Legislature," &c.; the 2d section apologizes for not establishing such schools, because "the finances of this State, so soon after a long and expensive war, are not in a condition (without an increase of taxes already heavy) to carry into execution" these constitutional requirements; therefore, it became "highly proper to promote the laudable attempt of the petitioners," &c.

The 3d section declares the school established "for the instruction of youth in the learned and foreign languages, reading and writing English, the mathematics and other useful branches of literature," and the 4th names the school "the Public School of Germantown."

Section 5th, "That the first trustees of the said school shall consist of the following named persons, viz.: Henry Hill, Samuel Ashmead and Jacob Rush, Esquires; the Rev. Albert Helfenstein and Frederick Smith; John Vanderen, John Bringhurst, Jacob Ferree, Christian Snider, James Haslet, Samuel Mechlin, Noah Townsend, George Bringhurst, Justus Fox, William Ashmead, David Deshler, Doctor Jacob Frederick, Paul Engle, John Fry and Abraham Rittenhouse," twenty-one in number, instead of thirteen, as under the old "concessions and agreements." These trustees were established "one body politic . . . with perpetual succession."

Section 6th "requires these to meet on the first Monday of November next . . . and at least once in every year afterward," and constitutes "seven of them a board or quorum," giving among other things named, the power "of electing trustees in the place of those who shall resign their offices or die."

Section 7th, "Persons of every religious denomination among Christians, shall be capable of being elected trustees; nor shall any person, either as master, tutor, officer or pupil, be refused admission for his conscientious persuasion in matters of

religion, provided he shall demean himself in a sober, orderly manner, and conform to the rules and regulations of said school."

Section 8th is in regard to the gaining and holding of property, and the liberal construction of the constitution of the school; and the 9th authorizes the transfer of all the property and effects, heretofore belonging to the school, to this Board of Trustees.

Section 1st of "the Supplement" of 1786, explains its purpose to be to revive some of the regulations of "the Union School," and the 2d section provides for eight "additions, alterations and amendments of the said constitution of the said incorporated school." 1st. A person having paid "forty shillings, gold or silver money of Pennsylvania," to further the interests of the school, "shall be entitled to vote for the election of trustees." 2d. Arranges them in three classes, and provides for one of these to be chosen each year. 3d. The first Monday of May in every year is fixed as the time, and the school-house as the place of holding the election. 4th. Members may be re-elected or re-appointed. 5th. Vacancies occasioned by death or resignation may be filled by appointment of the other trustees. 6th. There shall be at least one meeting of trustees every year, and they shall elect a president, treasurer and secretary. 7th. Five trustees assembled on due notice shall constitute "a board or quorum;" and notices must state when a vacancy is to be filled. 8th. "The two most commodious rooms of the school-house shall be forever appropriated to the use of keeping an English and German School" which shall have equal privileges.

Section 3d repeals and makes void all in the act inconsistent with this supplement.

A second supplement was obtained in 1837, which will be referred to in the proper place.

In pursuance of this act, a quorum of the trustees met November 1, 1784, and elected Christian Snider treasurer, and Joseph Ferree secretary. Rev. Mr. Smith, Mr. Hill and Mr. Fox were appointed a committee to "invent a seal."

FROM 1784 TO 1793.

The committee ordered "to invent a seal for the use of the school," was further instructed "to have it executed for the sum of ten dollars, and to likewise procure a seal-press for the same." It is worthy of mention that this is the first time the word "dollar" occurs in the minutes; but the accounts were still kept in pounds, shillings and pence.

At that first meeting a committee, consisting of Samuel Ashmead, Samuel Mechlin and Joseph Ferree, was appointed to take an inventory of the property belonging to the "late school," in order that the new trustees might get possession of it, including some subscriptions due the former school, of which it appears Joseph Ferree was the treasurer. The papers belonging to the school were found safe in "a walnut box" in the hands of the said Mr. Ferree.

Revs. Helfenstein and Smith, and Messrs. Hill, Samuel Ashmead and John Bringhurst, having been appointed a committee on "Rules and Regulations for the good government of the school," reported at the meeting in May, 1785; but their report was referred to another committee with instructions "to amend and compare the rules with the rules composed for the former Germantown School."—"Revs. Smith and Helfenstein, Mr. Fox, Mr. Hill and Mr. Mechlin," were appointed a committee to inquire if there was any "occasion to petition the Assembly for further powers to be vested in the corporation," and out of this movement grew the "amendments"

to the first act of incorporation, an outline of which has already been presented. These "amendments" were radical and comprehensive, leaving but little of the first act in force. The trustees were made elective by the contributors for the support of the school, in classes of seven members each, to hold office for three years. The first class of trustees, under the amendment, was chosen on May 7, 1787; Samuel Ashmead, Henry Hill, Albert Helfenstein, John Bringhurst, Geo. Logan, Christian Laschet and Peter Libert.

Two important matters were brought before the permanent Board of Trustees, and favorably acted upon, that indicated much foresight on their part, and a just appreciation of the necessities of the undertaking. The one was a plan for raising an Endowment Fund. Although the minutes kept by Mr. Ferree, the secretary, are very meagre in quantity and imperfect in quality, it can fairly be inferred from what he has left on record, that this subject enlisted the closest attention of the trustees and friends of the school, and that they projected a plan of endowment with much hopefulness of success. It was "set on foot" at the third meeting of the board, and placed in the hands of the two clergymen members, who seemed to be placed foremost on most of the important committees, together with Messrs. Hill, Samuel Ashmead and John Bringhurst, who had the following form of subscription paper, printed in English and German, "a quire of good writing paper" for each, and placed in the hands of suitable persons to secure subscriptions. A copy of this paper is here given, as a very good model for a similar one when this same subject may again present itself for the serious consideration of the hereditary and other friends of this Academy.

"Whereas, certain persons in Germantown and the city and county of Philadelphia, several years ago, raised a sum of money by subscription for the purchasing of a lot in Germantown, and thereon erected a house in which are kept two schools for teaching the English and German languages, and two other small tenements for the accommodation of the two schoolmasters :

"And whereas, the Assembly in the year 1784 passed a law incorporating the said school by the name of the Public School of Germantown, and appointing certain trustees for the good government of the same—Now the said trustees, anxious to promote so useful an institution, have recourse to the liberality of such persons as may be generously disposed to support the laudable undertaking, and by their subscription establish a fund, the interest of which to be applied to the purposes aforesaid.

"We therefore, the subscribers, desiring to hold out a fostering hand to the rising seminary, do promise to pay to the Trustees of the Public School of Germantown, or their order, on demand, the sums we have severally annexed to our names; reserving, nevertheless, at our option, the payment of legal interest annually, until it may suit our convenience to pay the *principle sum* subscribed."

This was a move in the right direction, and would have been successful if the agitation for a radical change in the act of incorporation had not been commenced and the change only too soon effected, by which there would be a constant liability to a change in the composition of the Board of Trustees, and a consequent danger of the perversion of such a fund by inexperienced or incompetent persons. This return to the old plan of frequent changes, which was undoubtedly intended for good, certainly proved to be an element of weakness which gave rise to constant fluctuations in the administration of the affairs of the institution, and prevented its rising to any great efficiency or power as a school.

The other matter was an application to the Assembly "for a grant of part of the

lands appropriated for the support of the public schools of this State, and such other assistance as can be obtained." This purpose was prosecuted with vigor, and the Assembly was found ready to make a grant of land, "provided we can defray the expenses" of surveying it and putting it in the market. The condition of the funds of the school compelled the trustees to decline this offer. We can now see how short-sighted their policy was in this case; but the opportunity passed, and although frequent efforts were afterwards made, nothing was ever accomplished.

In May, 1792, the first mention is found of what has always been known as the "Poor Fund." "A committee was appointed to procure six children of poor people in the neighborhood, three whereof to be educated in the German school, and the other three in the English," and another committee "to obtain subscription of such persons who are desirous to encourage literature in the institution." The means of educating these children of the poor had been furnished by a bequest of Mrs. Hill, amounting to £150, four years' interest on which, £36, is made an item in the treasurer's report at the close of 1792.

This was the largest sum given to the school up to this time by any one person; but it was followed by a few others, as will appear in the progress of the history.

1798-1800.

THE BUILDINGS OFFERED FOR THE USE OF CONGRESS OR THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

The interests of the school are overshadowed during this period of seven or eight years, by a series of remarkable events that brought Germantown much and favorably to the notice of the State and of the whole nation. The citizens of the place seem to have appreciated this fact, and were wisely disposed to make the best of the opportunity, and they have left on record most memorable evidences of their generous hospitality towards the great numbers of people that fled from the city and sought in this salubrious region an asylum, at a time when the Yellow Fever—an all-devastating plague—made the stoutest heart tremble.

No amount of self-sacrifice seemed too great if those distinguished persons, who under these painful circumstances had become the guests of the town, could be made comfortable. Not only the best private residences were placed at the disposal of the first and the greatest President of the then young and aspiring nation, and the scarcely less distinguished members of his Cabinet, the State officers and other men of note, for their temporary homes—evidently at the expense of very great inconvenience of the best families of the place—but even the cherished and almost venerated buildings of the Public School of Germantown were not withheld, when the State or the national interests seemed to demand them for occupation. Never did any community have a more favorable opportunity to display a large-hearted philanthropy and noble public spirit; and it may be doubted whether in the history of great national calamity, any community so promptly and so easily rose to the highest and best exemplification of a trait of character so universally admired and so rarely witnessed. The necessary brevity of these historical notes forbids any enlargement upon this very interesting topic, but the relations of our trustees to the subject, and their prompt and magnanimous action, will not allow it to be passed without some respectful comments.

It may be added, however, that the practical people who had always kept an eye

to the financial, as well as the moral and intellectual well-being of the growing town, were not so absorbed in maintaining a character for generous kindness and Christian courtesy toward their distinguished guests as to wholly neglect to turn the whole matter, with much wise forethought, to the furtherance of its substantial benefit. Whilst it must be admitted the presence of so large a number of non-residents and foreigners produced so many changes as to almost revolutionize the society and the institutions and customs of the ancient Germantowners, still they left the place much richer than they found it; giving an impulse to enterprise that did not spend itself for a long time afterwards.

The German language, that had hitherto been used in general conversation for old and young, and in the pulpits of all the churches, began to yield to the English, during this period, and at the end of it the former was almost superceded by the latter. The great healthfulness of the place, which is said never to have originated a case of bilious fever, led those who came here at first as to a place of refuge to make it their summer residence for many years.

It is well known that the government of the United States was first inaugurated in New York, in 1789, but by act of Congress Philadelphia was made the capital of the nation from 1790 until 1800. In 1793 the yellow fever became epidemic in the city, to the great consternation of all its inhabitants. Nearly a century before, in 1699, when Penn made his second visit to his Province, the place had been threatened and possibly visited by this terrible scourge, and in describing the effect of its approach a cotemporary uses the following language: "Great was the fear that fell on all flesh. I saw no lofty or airy countenance—nor heard any vain jesting,—but every face gathered paleness, and many hearts were humbled." During the century there had been many panics from this cause no doubt, but not until this time did the Philadelphians seem to have learned how conveniently they could find a secure retreat.

In the proceedings of the Board of Trustees for October 26, 1793, this minute occurs: "A proposal from the Governor of Pennsylvania was taken into consideration, whether this board would accommodate the House of Assembly with the school buildings at their next session; it being also communicated that the Congress of the United States had expressed some desire to know whether they could be accommodated at Germantown at their next session."

A committee, consisting of Henry Hill, President of the board, John Bringhurst, Samuel Mechlin, Melcher Meng and Joseph Ferree, were appointed to provide other accommodations for the school, and thus make way for granting this request of the Governor of the State, or to turn over the buildings to Congress to make it the Capitol of the Nation! Which were most honored, these school-buildings then among the best in the nation, or the Assembly and the Congress to whom they were so promptly offered! *provided* a suitable place could be obtained for the school!

But there is another phase to this story, and although it might be thought advisable to keep it out of sight, the story would be very incomplete until that phase is turned fairly to view. A few lines from the minutes of November 2, 1793, will reveal the terrible destructiveness of the war that brought such a blight upon the whole country, the traces of which were only too evident everywhere in Germantown, and not least in the condition of the school-house. They will also show the severe struggles with poverty that had to be maintained in order to support the school. The report of the above committee being under consideration, it was—

"Resolved, that a committee be appointed to carry into effect the following resolution, viz.: That if necessary to the accommodation of the Congress of the United States, or of the State Legislature, they do first make the President of the United States an offer of the school buildings, on the following terms: first, the following repairs are wanting, to wit: 104 panes of glass, two window shutters, two door linings, three door locks, the steps front and back of new wood, the hearths to be laid with new brick, sundry patchings and whitewashing, for which repairs, and no others, the sum of sixty dollars will be allowed out of the rent, which is to be three hundred dollars for one session, by either of the Legislators, if by them occupied for the public use, and that the said committee shall procure another suitable building to accommodate the school during said time." Shades of the mighty dead! Who will talk again of the small beginnings of Rome or the rural simplicity of Romulus and his little community of braves!

Henry Hill, Samuel Ashmead, Christopher Schneider, Samuel Mechlin and Joseph Ferree, were the committee appointed to make this most magnanimous offer of the very best the town could afford, and on the most liberal terms. It does not appear that Congress accepted the offer. Was it too poor to pay for the repairs?

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE—TWO PHILADELPHIA BANKS IN THE ACADEMY.

It is difficult to gain any very clear idea of the condition of the school during this period, except that it had a continued existence. During 1794 there is no record of any meetings of the trustees. At the annual meeting of this year mention is made of the decease of Jacob Fraley and Samuel Ashmead. The latter gentleman had been a true and earnest patron and trustee of the school for many years. At the next annual meeting two vacancies were filled occasioned by the death of Dr. Charles Bensil and John Bringham. Dr. Bensil was a member of the first Board of Trustees, and had been identified with the school for thirty-four years; John Bringham became a trustee in 1769 for the first time. It was difficult to supply the place of such tried friends, but their example was a stimulus to all their successors.

During this period it is said there were many French people, refugees, temporarily residing in Germantown, and this fact, doubtless, led to the introduction of the French language as a study in the Academy, and the employment of James Chambers as teacher of Latin and French. He was so successful that the room assigned him was too small to accommodate his pupils comfortably, and he requested the trustees to give him the privilege to have a partition removed at his own expense; which they refused, but gave him relief by other measures.

It is worthy of note, as indicating their idea of school discipline, that during this year the following rule for the government of the masters was adopted:—"That

the masters shall be respectively answerable for the conduct of their scholars, while going to and returning from school: That they [the scholars?] shall not go into any field or orchard in the neighborhood of the school, without permission from the owner or tenant, but take the most public road leading to and from the same, and that the strictest order be observed in the government of each school, so that the master and scholars may profit thereby."

A committee was appointed to raise money by subscription to make necessary repairs to the school-house; but as they never made any report to the trustees, it is probable that they were not very successful, and that the very large number of broken windows that Congress did not see proper to repair continued to introduce abundance of fresh air for the health, if not for the comfort, of the teachers and pupils.

"The Germantown Public School" is first called "the Academy" in the minutes kept by Isaac Franks, Secretary, for May 21, 1796. James Chambers, whose letter of application for a place as a Teacher of French, during the previous year, is placed on the minutes, and speaks of it as an "Academy." For more than three-quarters of a century it has popularly been known by this name. At the annual meeting for 1797 George Bensil and John Fromberger came into the board, and afterwards became very active and useful members; the latter was chosen treasurer.

At a special meeting on the 15th of May of this year, a proposition was made and acted upon favorably to revive a girls' school in the building, to be taught by a mistress.

At the next annual meeting, 1798, Rev. Mr. Harman and Rev. Mr. Shaffer were elected members of the Board of Trustees. "Samuel Mechlin, John Fromberger and Isaac Franks were appointed a committee to make application to the next Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, at the commencement of their next session, in behalf of the trustees of the Public School of Germantown, for a grant of money to enable the trustees to repair said school-house." "John Fromberger, the treasurer, was appointed to make application on behalf of the trustees, to the executors of Paul Engle, deceased, for the legacy left by him for the Public School of Germantown." At a special meeting of the trustees during this year Ferdinand Kreemer was admitted as a teacher of the German language, showing that up to this time the German school was in demand and taken care of by the trustees.

At a special meeting in September, 1798, an application was received from the Banks of *Pennsylvania* and *North America* for the use of the cellar and the first story of the Academy, "during the existence of the prevailing contagious fever at the city of Philadelphia." The schools were at once dismissed and the request of the banks granted. They gave the trustees the following written obligation:

"In consideration of the use of the first story and cellar of the Public School-house of Germantown, we agree and promise to put a new roof on the public school-house which we are to occupy, and to paint the same with two coats of paint, and to be completed by the first day of June next, at the cost and expense of the banks of Pennsylvania and North America.

"Witness our hands at Germantown, this 4th day of September, A. D. 1798.

"Signed, BENJAMIN W. MORRIS,

"In behalf of the Bank of Pennsylvania.

"MORDICA LEWIS,

"In behalf of the Bank of North America."

The necessities of these wealthy banks gave a very fine opportunity to the trustees

Charles I Wister Esq - Lehigh

Dear Sir

of Mercury Transit - its inhabitants if any
must have had a warm time of it.

the masters shall be respectively answerable for the conduct of their scholars, while going to and returning from school: That they [the scholars?] shall not go into any

The Publication Committee having failed to obtain a portrait of Mr. Benjamin Chew, who for thirty-eight consecutive years presided over the Board of Trustees of the Academy, concluded to introduce, as a substitute, the following letter, characteristic of his courtesy and promptness in his attention to the duties of his position:

AS CASHIER OF THE BANK OF PENNSYLVANIA.

"MORDICA LEWIS,

"In behalf of the Bank of North America."

The necessities of these wealthy banks gave a very fine opportunity to the trustees

Charles J. Wister Esq. - Leobville

Defici

Receiving a Notice to attend a meeting of the Trustees of the Academy, & this afternoon I am sorry to inform you that I am prevented from giving my attendance, by an indisposition that has confined me to my house for near three weeks past, 17 days of which were in my Chamber - altho the weather of the day is so extraordinarily mild I have not been permitted to enjoy it out of my walls.

Entertaining a deep Interest for the Institution I wish, not to appear as a voluntary Delinquent on your Minutes and therefore shall be obliged to you to notice that my absence was caused by indisposition and a Chairman substituted in consequence of it.

I hope your worthy Committee have ere this procured a suitable Principal to supply the place of Mr. Cruze and a fairer Prospect opened for the promotion of the School.

With much respect and the tender of my best wishes towards yourself personally I remain
very truly Yours obed. Serv^t

Gloucester - 9th Nov^r 1835 -

B. Hew

I have envied your enjoyment in your observation of Mercurys Transit - its Inhabitants, if any, must have had a warm time of it.

to obtain the money that they had so long needed for repairs; and the manner in which they improved the opportunity shows very considerable financial ability. It was found, on closer examination, that the school-house did not need a new roof, and the banks agreed to have the work measured and give the trustees an equivalent in money. Silas Engle, on the part of the school, and William Garrigus, on the part of the banks, were appointed measurers, and they estimated the work worth £254 16s., and charged £7 12s. for their services. This sum was promptly paid by the banks, and \$1,003.33 invested in United States 6 per cent. stock, of which they obtained \$1,250 for the benefit of the Public School of Germantown. The balance was appropriated for repairs. The banks returned to the city in November, after sending a letter to the trustees "thanking them for the asylum which they had afforded those institutions during the dreadful calamity which lately afflicted the city of Philadelphia," and proposing to engage the school-house for the next year, "in case (which God forbid) the exigencies" should render it necessary to return to Germantown. Committees of conference were appointed, composed of John Morton, George Brickham, William T. Smith, A. Henry and Richard Rundle, on the part of the banks; and Isaac Franks, George Bensil and Benjamin Lehman, on the part of the Academy, by whom it was determined that the banks should "pay down four hundred dollars as a certain gratuity to the institution, and the further sum of four hundred dollars in case the banks should make use of the same." The \$400 was paid, but the banks were not again compelled to leave the city. The generous liberality of these banks is more to be admired than the courtesy of the trustees

1800-1810.

A LIBRARY PROPOSED—FREQUENT CHANGE OF TEACHERS—ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE LOTTERY—THE GERMAN SCHOOL DECLINES—A PRINCIPAL OF THE ACADEMY FIRST PROPOSED.

The incidents of this decade can be stated in a brief space. The routine business relative to the school makes up most of the story. The money received from the Philadelphia banks had been placed at interest, and it was allowed to accumulate until it should be needed for the purpose for which it was originally intended. Legacies left by Mrs. Hill and her son Mr. Hill, Mr. Ludwig and Mr. Engle, amounting to \$866.67, the proceeds of which were devoted to the education of poor children, were loaned to the "Presbyterian Society" for many years, and afterwards otherwise invested. During this period there was a return to their allegiance of many good men who seem to have been for awhile alienated. When such men as John Johnson, Jr., Benjamin Chew, Jr., Benjamin Lehman, John Fromberger, Dr. George Bensil, Dr. Samuel Betton, Samuel Bringham, the Frys and the Ashmeads—and many others whose names are still the pride of Germantown—combined their influence and contributed their time, their talents and their means to build up the Academy, the most formidable obstacles could hardly defeat its success. But as we progress in the history of this decade it will appear that their combined wisdom was put to the test, and their most vigorous and persevering efforts to produce a first-class school were seriously baffled. The *plan* on which the school was organized was put on a fair trial, and no one can look upon the result as wholly satisfactory; indeed it will be found that relying on local patronage and support was virtually abandoned at the close of this period, and that the next decade will open a new era for the Academy.

At the annual meeting for 1800 "Dr. George Bensil made application to the Board to appropriate one of the vacant rooms up-stairs for the use of a LIBRARY." But action upon this, and also upon the application of Matthew Heuston, Edward W. Shoemaker and John Sellers for the use of a room for a MASONIC LODGE, was postponed to a future meeting.

As appears from the minutes of the annual meeting for 1801, the officers, Thos. Forest, president, Isaac Frames, secretary, and John Fromberger, treasurer, were chosen directly by the contributors; and this method was followed at one or two succeeding annual meetings and then it was abandoned. There are no minutes of meetings of trustees for 1800 and 1801. At the annual meeting for 1802 Thomas Forest, president of the board, John Fromberger, secretary, John Johnson, treasurer, and Dr. George Bensil were appointed a committee to examine the state and condition of the public school and report at the next meeting.

There seems to have been frequent applications to the trustees for the use of the building for public worship on the Sabbath and during evenings; and it was certainly much used for this purpose by common consent; but it was found best to pass a resolution forbidding its use for night service.

The treasury showed a handsome balance of \$282.49 on July 12, 1802. The committee on the condition of the school reported at this meeting that the roof of the building should be repaired, the windows glazed "to keep out the beating rain," and all "the outer wood work below the roof should be repaired and receive two good coats of paint;" "that the rooms in the second story should be whitewashed, cleansed and put in order" for the accommodation and use of "other tutors different from the English and German," and that all this could be done for a less sum than the balance in the treasury, "without touching the interest of the present year on the principal of the stock of the institution." The report was adopted, and gave the first impulse to a protracted struggle to revive and maintain a classical and French department.

John Fromberger and John Johnson were appointed a committee "to extract from the wills of all persons that have left legacies to the school" for the information of the board. Dr. George Bensil was directed to advertise for a person to teach the Latin, Greek and French languages.

The banks again applied for the school building in July of 1802, but they did not find it necessary to use it.

In the bill for repairs presented in September of this year, amounting to \$206.74, there is an item, "To Elizabeth Windolph for whitewashing, \$14.50," showing that women were well remunerated for good service by our trustees at that time. The house was now pronounced in excellent condition, and the further use of it for public worship was forbidden.

There were many applicants for the place of teacher of Latin, Greek and French, but the successful applicant was Samuel Chandler, who seemed to give general satisfaction, and then "suddenly absented himself from his duty in attending the school," and left no intimation of the cause of his absence. Another teacher was advertised for, but no competent person could be found. About six weeks after Mr. Chandler's sudden departure he made application, and after a full examination of his case by a committee, his apologies were accepted and he was reinstated as teacher of Latin, Greek and French, at the same salary. "The conduct of the different masters employed in the Academy" was placed under the superintendence of Messrs. Chew, Bensil, Bullock and Johnson, with power to call a meeting of the board. In 1804, after a rather doubtful success of less than two years, Mr. Chan-



Grandfather

1850

John



ANNO ATATIN 16
NAT APRIL 15TH 1792
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A. 84

Charles Wister
Germanstown
July 10th 1865

dler resigned, and the classical department was without a teacher until May, 1805, when a room was given to Wm. Lawson to teach Latin and Greek, geography and book-keeping.

The annual election for 1805 was declared irregular and void, and a new election held on June 24th. Some had voted at the first election who were not contributors.

In June, 1806, it was resolved that the school year should close with the month of March and open with the month of May; and that the different masters should be elected annually on the last Saturday of March, and the secretary informed the masters of this action of the board. No master was to have more than fifty scholars, "unless he keep a person as an usher that shall be approved by the trustees."

In January of the next year there was complaint made that negroes and mulattoes were placed on the same seats with white children. The trustees disapproved this practice of the masters, and ordered the former to be placed on seats by themselves.

John Conrad, one of the teachers, was elected Justice of the Peace, but that was not deemed inconsistent with his duties, provided he would employ an usher or assistant. Visiting committees were appointed to visit the school systematically, and the fine for neglecting the duty was fixed at one dollar for each offence.

The long-contemplated new roof for the Academy was ordered, and the work placed in charge of a committee composed of Benjamin Benner, Jacob Fry and John Ashmead, and the work seems to have been accomplished with great expedition.

A persistent effort was made in December, 1808, to obtain privilege from the Legislature to open a lottery again as a means of increasing the funds of the school. A committee was appointed to memorialize the Legislature at Lancaster and attend its sessions in order to secure the authority desired. They performed the duty at an expense of \$39.25, which was paid by the board. In the meantime John Johnson, Jr., the treasurer, resigned his place, determining not to have anything to do with funds raised in this way. As Mr. Johnson was elected trustee again at the next annual meeting, it would seem that the opposition to the scheme was strong enough to secure its defeat.

After repeated advertisements for a teacher of Latin, Greek and French, no competent person was secured until September, 1809, when William Woodman made application and received an appointment. He was required to depend upon the proceeds of tuition for his salary, and permission was given him to charge \$5 a quarter. He does not seem to have been successful, and under the next teacher this method was abandoned, and the mode of managing the school radically changed. Mr. Woodman asked to be made *Principal* of the Academy, but for some reason his request was not granted.

The German school had so decreased in numbers as to be kept in the master's own house.

1810-1820.

CHANGE OF PLAN OF SUPPORT—THE BOARDING-HOUSES.

This decade makes another rounded period in the history of the Academy. It is not an arbitrary division. The period begins with the entire abandonment of the old plan of relying on local support alone, and keeping up isolated and separated schools, each under the direct supervision of the board. The German school had ceased to be in demand, and all the other schools were placed under the care and supervision of one head teacher, whom they called the *PRINCIPAL*. All the buildings were placed in his charge to be disposed of as he might think best for the interests of the Academy. The trustees reserved the right of careful supervision and visitation and suggestion, and of removal on certain conditions specified in the agreement. But no teacher felt that he held his place simply at the will of the board.

The principal was to keep boarders; and in order to enable him to do well in this department, larger and better accommodations were provided for him.

The change promised the best results. It was in fact the germ of the union, or graded school system, under one head, that has wrought such wonders for the public free schools in all the cities and large towns where it has been adopted. The union, strength and efficiency of this plan of organization has forced it upon all academies and seminaries of learning throughout the country. No successful school of this class is now under the direct management of a board of trustees in the details of its classification, the employment of teachers, or the methods of instruction.

Such was the opening of this decade, but the close left the school just about where the close of the preceding decade had left it. There was the nominal head left according to the new plan, but no vital union. The intervening ups and downs will appear in some measure as we proceed with the narrative.

Various circumstances favored the success of the school. Gentlemen from the city had country-seats here and were regarded by the trustees as residents, and enjoyed all its privileges.

The names of three gentlemen, at least, that have become household words in Germantown, were added to the list of names of strong men that had combined their efforts, during the last decade, to make the Academy meet all the wants of the local demand for education. These three men were Charles J. Wister, John F. Watson and Samuel Harvey, of whom more particular mention will be made in another connection.

As may be inferred from what was said of the school during the last decade, it had ceased to have much life in it during the year 1809; but the trustees rallied to its support, and put forth still greater exertions to maintain its integrity and re-establish its efficiency.

They resolved to advertise for a principal who should be able to teach Latin, Greek and French, and to give him as compensation, "in addition to the privilege of the school-house and two dwelling-houses, together with all the land belonging thereto . . . eight hundred dollars per annum." This was the most liberal offer that they had ever made to a teacher. But still more liberal things were devised.

At a meeting of the trustees, February 23, 1810, it was "Resolved, that in order to a more extensive accommodation to the principal to be appointed to the public school of Germantown, the house opposite, belonging to James Matthews, be purchased for and in behalf of the trustees, and that \$3,200 shall be paid for the same." Richard Bayley and Conrad Carpenter were authorized to make this purchase, and George Bensil, the secretary of the board, was instructed to sign all the papers necessary to complete the purchase, and "to secure John Wister in the sum of \$1,400 borrowed from him for the purpose of purchasing the house," and to give a mortgage for the balance unpaid. All this was reported at the meeting of March 19, 1810, as having been done, and that Mr. Matthews had made the trustees "the handsome present of the insurance on the house, with his best wishes for the success of the Academy." This transaction reminds one of the spirit of the men of just fifty years before, who with such liberality and vigor had laid the foundations of the Academy. In this case, however, the money relied upon to make the purchase was not a new contribution, but accrued interest of a few small legacies, and the liberal sum received from the Philadelphia banks for the use of the building in former years.

The man whose good fortune it was to be called to this promising field of labor, usefulness and honor was George I. Howell, elected the first principal February 10, 1810. There is no mention made of his antecedents. He was evidently a man of

considerable ability, and was able to make his presence and power felt at once. The trustees made it his duty to collect the tuition and account to them for the amount. They agreed to make up any deficiency if the amount should fall short of \$800, and whatever there was collected annually more than the average sum of \$800 should "be considered the property of the principal." The rates of tuition were fixed at \$2.50, \$5.00, \$7.50, \$10.00 and \$12.50; the last including Latin, Greek and French. He was to arrange his own charges for boarders.

In April of the same year the trustees unanimously voted their full appreciation of the talents and industry of George I. Howell "in promoting the benefit of this institution, and agree to support him in all his proper exertions." In June following "an application was received from Mr. Howell requesting that the frame building contiguous to his dwelling might undergo certain repairs, to enable him to accommodate a greater number of boarders. Upon considering the matter," the minute continues, "Benjamin Lehman, C. Carpenter and John Ashmead were appointed a committee to have the application carried into effect," and it was promptly done.

In August an annual vacation of two weeks and two days was voted, at Mr. Howell's request, "from the last Saturday of September to the third Monday following." But matters moved on too well to continue long. That which it would seem the board might have accomplished by a kind suggestion they, for some good reason no doubt, chose to enforce by authority. Here is found the first ordinance on ringing the bell, but, unfortunately for the good of the school, it was not the last. No doubt in those early days the voice of this faithful monitor commanded more general attention than it does now in this day of town-clocks and steam-whistles. But to a modern ear there seems to have been demanded a superfluous amount of a good thing in its way. It was "Resolved," September 11, 1810, "that in future the bell shall be rung one-quarter of an hour before eight o'clock until eight o'clock, from the first of April until the first of October, and the school hours from eight to twelve clock. The bell always to be rung precisely at twelve and continued five minutes; and a quarter of an hour before two o'clock and continue ringing until two o'clock, from April to October. From first of October to first of April, begin ringing at a quarter before nine and at twelve o'clock as above; and at half-past one and one-half hour past four P. M." It is very clear that the bell-ringing was not for the benefit of the school, but to regulate the business habits of the community.

In January of the next year the principal was directed, in a series of carefully prepared resolutions, what number and character of teachers he should employ and in what manner he should classify his pupils; to "permit no more than one scholar at a time to go out of the school during school hours," and that "a principal of this institution be elected every year on the first Monday in April," and a committee was appointed to inform Mr. Howell of this action.

A special meeting was called at the King of Prussia Inn on the 31st of this month, just ten days after the notice was given Mr. Howell of their action, and another committee appointed "to acquaint him that this board having unexpectedly seen an advertisement from Mr. Howell, published in the public papers, announcing his opening a boarding school at the house lately occupied by Mr. Bevardi, they desire to ascertain at what time he will make it convenient to deliver to this board the school-room and the several buildings placed under his possession that belong to this corporation," and the report made was that he fixed the first day of April.

This was rather sharp business, and hardly expected by the board; for there seemed to be very general satisfaction with the able management of Mr. Howell. But they proceeded to reconsider the resolution for the *annual election of a principal*, and made his appointment "during good behavior and due attention to the charge

committed to him," reserving "a reasonable control and the power of removal of the principal and any officer appointed under him." They advertised for another teacher, offering a salary of \$1,000, and charging the principal \$200 rent for all the buildings; the principal to employ and pay the teachers. To compete with "several other schools" the tuition was reduced to \$2 a quarter for the rudiments of English.

Verily, history repeats itself. Why not the history of this Academy? The history of this whole case is almost an exact counterpart of that of the first English master that was employed fifty years before; and was the continuation of the policy of changing the principal for trivial causes, which kept the school from ever rising to that position among educational institutions that all the circumstances of its location would seem certainly to have insured for the Germantown Academy.

Enion Williams and Stephen H. Long succeeded Mr. Howell as co-principals with the compensation above resolved upon. The trustees this time made a very careful and particular reservation of the rights to direct and control the school in every department, and to remove one or both of the principals, on three months' notice, "except in case of extraordinary urgency," when it could be done without any notice; the principals having privilege to leave on the same notice. They were to charge \$100 a year for boarders, and to occupy the Mansion House. These gentlemen did not have uniform success; and finally, after having some dispute about the division of the profits, they dissolved partnership, one taking the boarding department, and the other the day scholars; after this separation, the school began to decline very rapidly, and the Mansion House was rented during the year 1815 to Rev. Thomas Dunn, the Presbyterian minister, for \$210, no teacher applying for it to keep a boarding school.

The school was faithfully visited by C. J. Wister, George Bensil, Samuel Harvey, Benjamin Lehman, Benjamin Davis, and other members of the board, and written reports made to the trustees showing its exact condition, and these reports were placed on record during several successive years. From them it appears that the attendance in all departments of the school, under the three teachers, August, 1813, was as follows: Stephen Long, 24, of whom 13 were pursuing a classical course; Enion Williams (Principal of the boarding school), 27, studying English branches and French; B. Carpenter, 57, of whom there are marked "11 gratis by order of the committee on the education of poor children;" making in all 98 pupils. In May of 1814 the members reported were 17, 13, and 54 (19 of the latter being females). In November of the same year the members were 17, 7, and 46 (boys and girls). From this it appears that the separate boarding school plan had not succeeded, and Mr. Williams resigned his place at the end of the year. The next year there was no boarding school, and no written report of the condition of the school in other respects. In November, 1816, Jedediah Strong had 21 scholars, of whom 11 were studying Latin; Silas George, 38, 14 of whom were "charity scholars," making in all but 59 scholars. Jedediah Strong took the "Mansion House" at a rent of \$200, with a view of reviving the boarding school. At the May meeting of this year Samuel Harvey reported a scheme for the more permanent support of the school, the main feature of which was a subscription for an "Annual Contribution." In February of 1817 Mr. Strong had 25 pupils, and Mr. Hattens 42, as reported by the visiting committee, composed of Samuel Harvey and Benjamin Lehman. This whole report was prepared with much care. The committee state that but little attention was paid to the cleanliness of the smaller children or of the school; that the classification was very imperfect; that the order was bad, so "that 7 and 9 were found out at the same time playing about the school;" reading and arithmetic were imperfectly taught; in the Latin teaching the

derivation of English words was neglected, the committee regarding "this as the primary end of learning the dead languages whereby the English is more confidently and beautifully used;" that they had urged "the necessity of civil or polite deportment from the younger to the more aged part of society, which your committee consider a necessary and beautiful part of education, but perhaps with little effect;" that there was a want of dignity and authority on the part of the teachers, and that in order to correct this evil, it was recommended to each teacher to take his position on a platform, with his own chair and table, and to require each pupil to stand up to recite his lessons. The committee also recommended the separation of the schools. At the May meeting Mr. Strong had 18—8 of them in Latin and 1 in Greek; Mr. Cameron, 53—12 of whom were females—"7 were sent by the trustees and 15 by the commissioners of the county." At this meeting the committee of visitors report a decided improvement in all matters complained of in the last report; and "that the institution is in a fair way of rising to reputation, and may with care rank with any country establishment for the education of youth." They further report that "Mr. Strong had employed a lady of reputation as a teacher," and proposed to establish "a female school on his own premises, as a branch of this institution under the guardianship of this board," which was approved of by the committee. The committee were J. F. Watson and Michael Riter.

There was made a full report in regard to the funds of the institution, showing that Nicholas Kline's bond and judgment was held for \$866.67, and that this fund was composed of the following items, being legacies to the school for the education of poor children:

Henry Hill's bond and judgment, 1797, including Mrs. Hill's legacy	\$ 400.00
Henry Hill's legacy, 1798	200.00
Christopher Ludweik's legacy, 1799	266.67
Constituting the "poor fund,"	\$ 866.67
Other funds:	
Paul Engle's legacy, 1792, in four ground rents, amounting to \$64.36, estimated at . . .	\$ 772.32
11 shares in Chestnut Hill and Spring-house turnpike	1100.00
	<u>\$2738.99</u>

In 1762 Benjamin Engle had left £30 in his will for the benefit of the institution; this had gone into the general funds.

Inasmuch as the State Legislature had made "a general provision for the schooling of poor children," the committee made a recommendation that a large part of the poor fund should be passed to the common fund, which was adopted.

Mr. Harvey and Mr. Wister make a favorable report of the school in August, 1817. Miss Rielby's school merited particular attention, especially in regard to reading. The numbers are not given. Mr. Strong had 17, 8 in Latin; Mr. Cameron, 53—42 males and 11 females; 19 sent by county commissioner, and 3 on poor fund. In February of the following year, Mr. Strong, 23; Omroyd, 68; whole attendance, 91. The next May, Strong, 17, and Omroyd, 49; making 66 in all; 17 on the poor list. These numbers were kept up until Mr. Strong resigned in May, 1819, leaving rent unpaid to the amount of \$278.51, and was succeeded by Rev. John R. Goodman, a man of excellent spirit, but not a very energetic teacher; Mr. Davis had separate charge of the English school. He was very popular for a time and had a large school; but at the close of the school year, in May, 1820, he had but 50 scholars, and Mr. Goodman 10 scholars.

Thus it appears that this decade opened with a united and vigorous school under a most energetic and earnest principal, who with a little more careful and sympathetic support might have given high character to the institution, and closed with the boarding department abandoned, the schools separated, and the institution in a condition in no respect very promising. The particulars have been stated in some

detail in order to show with what patience, perseverance and fidelity the eminent men composing the Board of Trustees stood by the fortunes of the school under all circumstances.

In May, 1816, a perpetual insurance for \$3,000 on the school-house was made in the Green Tree office in the city of Philadelphia at a cost of \$132. Permission was obtained of this company during the next year, by C. J. Wister, for Thomas Bishop, to deliver a course of chemical lectures, the success of which is not stated.

It is to be particularly noted that it was during this period that the State commenced the execution of a plan to aid the education of poor children, that has already resulted in our magnificent system of public free schools for the poor and the rich.

In April, 1812, Messrs. Rose and Nutz made an effort to resuscitate the German school, and the trustees responded with great cheerfulness to their respectful request. They had put the German master's house and all the rooms in the possession of Messrs. Williams and Long, the principals; but these also yielded at once their claims and encouraged the proposition. There is no further mention made of the matter, however, and it is probable that no German children were found to avail themselves of the privileges of such a school.

1820—A BRILLIANT PERIOD.

With the year 1820 the Academy commenced one of the most brilliant periods of its long and varied history. Frequent efforts and frequent failures had by no means discouraged the true friends of the institution, but they seemed rather to nerve them for greater exertions in its behalf. It was peculiarly fortunate at this time in the character of the gentlemen who composed the board of trustees. In view of the long period of prosperity of the Academy under them, it seems proper to depart from the usual course in these papers and give a full list of the members of the board for the year 1820.

Benjamin Chew, President; John Johnson, Treasurer; Charles J. Wister, Secretary. John Ashmead, Benjamin Bruner, James Ashmead, John Smith, John F. Watson, Benjamin Lehman, Peter Robeson, Alexander Provest, Samuel Harvey, Robert Bringham, Samuel Betton, A. E. Henkel, George Bensill, Richard Bayley, Conrad Carpenter, Nicholas Rittenhouse, John Fry, Jr., Reuben Haines.

Quite a number of these were at that time venerable old men, and some of them had faithfully stood by the school in all its vicissitudes for years past, and were highly honored for their fidelity to all the interests of their native town. Others were still in the vigor of early manhood, or had reached that maturity of years and ripe experience that gave weight to their counsels and enabled them to bring great practical wisdom to their plans for the future of the Academy.

Among the latter, none stood higher than Benjamin Chew, who entered the board in 1799, and became its President in 1806, which position he held and honored until 1844, the year of his death. His annual election was always unanimous, and he enjoyed the most implicit confidence of the friends and patrons of the institution, as well as that of the trustees. A fuller notice of Mr. Chew, and the illustrious family to which he belonged, will be given when the record of his death is reached in the minutes.

Some mention has already been made of the treasurer, John Johnson, Jr., who first became a trustee in the same year with Mr. Chew, 1799. He was made secretary of the board in 1802, and treasurer in 1807, which office he held to the time of his death in 1826.

A still more active and zealous, enterprising and practical friend of the Academy was the indefatigable secretary, Charles J. Wister. His grandfather, John Wister,

built the old family mansion now occupied by Charles J. Wister, Jr., and occupied it as a summer residence, but never fully identified himself with the interests of Germantown. His father, Daniel Wister, pursued the same course. But Charles J. Wister made the same house his permanent residence in 1806, and ever afterward devoted himself to every enterprise that would advance the well-being of the place of his chosen home. He was elected trustee of the Academy in 1810; secretary of the board in 1813, in which position he served the institution with great zeal, unswerving fidelity, and remarkable ability until 1842, when he resigned his place as trustee.—Having inherited a large estate, he had ample means to indulge himself in whatever his heart desired. He held the highest social position in the city as well as in Germantown, and was noted for his liberal education and great public spirit. He devoted himself to science, and pressed his investigations with a research more becoming a learned professor than an amateur. Now pursuing the study of chemistry to the very last obtained results, and trying new experiments in order to penetrate the unknown wonders, whose discovery has immortalized more than one name since his time; and now searching forest and field, hill and dale for specimens to illustrate the science of botany; again mineralogy was his hobby, and “no stone was left unturned” that new specimens might be added to his cabinet; then astronomy was taken up, and the heavens were scanned and all the stars located and named. To aid him in the last-named study, he erected a private observatory on his own premises, a transit instrument in 1835, and a telescope, which his son still keeps in excellent repair and use. Mr. Wister joined his fellow-townsmen in their laudable effort to make this Academy a school for the education of their sons, and he brought all his practical wisdom and large capacity for usefulness, in all respects, fully to bear on the subject. What was accomplished by him will appear as the history of the institution is developed during the long period of his connection with its management.

John F. Watson, the author of the *Annals of Philadelphia*, an imperishable monument of his industry, patriotism and noble public spirit, became a trustee in 1817, and devoted himself to the interests of the Academy for many years.

Samuel Harvey was another gentleman whose keen business talents are very evidently manifested during the long period of his services as a trustee. All who knew him,—and who in Germantown did not know him?—honored him and loved him.—The Bank of Germantown is a monument of his far-seeing, financial ability.

But Mr. Harvey was not less known and honored as a devoted and earnest member of the Methodist church and a local preacher in that denomination, when to be a Methodist was not the passport to the first places in society, that it has now become.

Reuben Haines was another great power in the board. But space forbids any further detail in regard to the galaxy of distinguished men of all religious creeds and beliefs, of all political parties, and belonging to all the learned professions, that harmoniously joined heart and hand and devoted their talents, their time, and their money to the support and building up of Germantown Academy during a long period of prosperity, commencing with the year 1820.

These brief hints are given to show, in connection with what is yet to be related, what an interesting period of the history of this place must pass into oblivion if not written soon.

THE TEACHER SELECTED — A GRADUATE OF HARVARD — LECTURES — TELESCOPE.

The Board of Trustees, constituted as has been already described, would be expected to proceed with great deliberation. They did so. The resignation of Mr.

Goodman, the nominal principal of the Academy, having been accepted, a committee, composed of A. E. Hanekel, Charles J. Wister, Reuben Haines and Samuel Harvey, was directed to secure the services of a proper person to fill his place. After much inquiry, no one was found who possessed all the qualifications that they deemed necessary to accomplish the work that they desired to have done, and were so reported to the board after a period of two months; but they stated that a gentleman of the name of J. M. Brewer, a graduate of Harvard, a teacher of experience and reputation, residing in Boston, whose qualifications were every way satisfactory to the committee, would come on at a salary of \$1,200, and they obtained leave of the board to offer him that amount, and to invite him to become the principal of the Academy. This gentleman "engaged to take upon himself the moral government of the pupils as well in the hours of relaxation as in those devoted to study." The dwelling-house was placed under the charge of Mrs. Anna Parry, Mr. Brewer being a single man. This lady was declared to be in every way qualified to superintend a large boarding establishment. They charged her but \$140 a year rent for the house. From these facts we learn that the trustees proposed to try over again the plan of creating a boarding department, so hopefully undertaken ten years before, but carried out with so little efficiency and success. The committee report that "the classical department is now in the 'full tide of successful' operation: all its rules and regulations are based upon laws which govern Harvard College in Cambridge, which is one of the first institutions in America." They say further, in presenting a code of laws to the trustees, that "they are perfectly satisfied that with their encouragement and co-operation that ere the termination of the first academic year they will be free to acknowledge that this Academy has not its superior in the Union." The school opened with eight day scholars and five boarders in the upper school under the care of Mr. Brewer, and forty-two in the English department under the care of Mr. Davies.

Notwithstanding these flattering prospects, the secretary felt it to be his duty to rent the lower rooms to the Bank of Philadelphia and the Farmers and Mechanics Bank for \$200 each for the season, or \$100 each if they did not remove to them; and the board confirmed the contract. A code of laws for the government of the school was adopted, arranged under six chapters and twenty-two sections, and an executive committee chosen to see that they were obeyed by all concerned. This committee was composed of Reuben Haines, Samuel Harvey, R. Bayley, J. F. Watson, C. J. Wister and A. E. Hanekel. A few extracts from these laws will give the views of the eminent gentlemen of that period in regard to some matters that are still interesting to the whole community. Chap. 1, Sec. 1, defines the qualification for admission to the Academy. Applicants must be able "to read common English authors or the plain parts of Scripture . . . and with the alphabet." Chap. 2, Sec. 2. "The students shall be punctual in attending at the hours appointed for opening the Academy; shall repair immediately to their respective seats without noise or confusion, and shall not leave them without special permission." Chap. 3, Sec. 1. "The Academy shall be daily opened and closed by reading a portion of the Holy Scriptures . . . and during these exercises the students shall all have their Bibles, carefully look over the portions read, and in all respects behave with the strictest solemnity and decorum." Chap. 4, Sec. 1. "Every student shall be responsible for his conduct without the Academy as well as within its walls." Sec. 2. "It shall be the duty of every student to attend some place of public worship on the Sabbath day, and at other times set apart for that purpose, and to observe a becoming seriousness of deportment during the time of divine worship." Chap. 6, Sec. 1, fixed two public examinations during the year,

and a public exhibition at the end of the Academic year: and Sec. 2, that there shall be four terms of eleven weeks each, a vacation of one week at the end of each term, and four weeks at the end of the fourth term, with "the usual holidays of one week at Christmas."

In March, 1821, "a vote of thanks was presented to William Weaver, Esq., for his able and diligent attention in procuring the appropriation from the Legislature of \$2,000 for the use of the institution, and that Samuel Harvey and C. J. Wister be a committee to communicate the same to him."

At the same meeting, on motion of John F. Watson, it was "Resolved, that the trustees, inspired by a sense of this generous conduct of their colleague, Charles J. Wister, do record on their minutes their thanks to that gentleman for his course of lectures on geology and mineralogy, delivered to the pupils of Mr. Brewster's school gratis, and to the class of inhabitants of the village at a subscription price [\$5] to be vested in the purchase of a pair of globes and needful philosophical apparatus to be by him presented to the school." Ten rules for the regulation of the English school were adopted by the board, and directed to be read at least once a month before all the pupils; but none of these rules are of any general interest, and it may be remarked in passing that this method of government is rarely resorted to any longer by the best qualified teachers.

At the annual meeting for 1821 no change was made in the board.

At the meeting in November Mr. Brewer resigned his place as principal, and recommended Walter R. Johnson, a student of Harvard, as his successor, whom the trustees at once employed as principal, and put the Academy in his charge. In regard to Mr. Brewer, it may be remarked that he removed to Philadelphia, and was the first to give lessons in Latin to a class of young ladies in the Quaker City. This information was given to the writer by an estimable lady who was a member of that first young ladies' Latin class, and who for many years has been the principal of one of the best known schools for young ladies in Philadelphia. She states also that he afterwards left the business of teaching and followed other pursuits, and it was her privilege to know him in ripe old age, and to be present when his many friends who honored him gathered to consign his body to the grave only a few years ago. His loss to the Academy would have been irreparable had he not, with great diligence and wise choice, secured a successor of equal and probably greater ability to fill his place. Mr. Johnson was employed at the same compensation, \$1,200.

MR. WISTER'S LECTURES—GENERAL WASHINGTON'S SPY-GLASS—RINGING
THE BELL—MINERALS—THE TELESCOPE.

At the annual meeting for 1822, Jedediah Strong, the magistrate, a former teacher of the Academy, was chosen a trustee. The Executive Committee reported 30 scholars in Mr. Johnson's school, and 31 in Dr. Bullock's, the successor to Mr. Davies in the English department; and they expressed great satisfaction with the teachers, but regretted that the school was not as flourishing as they had hoped and desired. They suggested the propriety of the board discontinuing the guarantee of \$1,200 to the principal, which was at once adopted, to take effect at the close of the current year. Mr. Wister reported the purchase, per order from London, of "a pair of globes of the best manufacture, containing all the new discoveries in Geography down to 1822, and which he now presents to the Academy;" and he also reported the completion of a course of lectures on chemistry, on the same plan of his former course on geology and mineralogy, for the benefit of the Academy; for all of which the board tendered him a vote of thanks. Again, at the November

meeting, Mr. Wister presented \$150 worth of chemicals and chemical apparatus to the institution, and a full set of the last edition of five-foot maps of Europe, Asia, Africa and America. One of the globes referred to is still preserved in the library.

In March, 1823, at the request of Mr. Johnson, the principal, the English school was placed under his care, and the rates of tuition raised to \$11 and \$5 per quarter. At the meeting in August of this year "Reuben Haines presented, in the name of Wm. B. Leibert, a spy-glass once the property of Dr. Witt, and used by the late General George Washington in the Revolutionary war, presented by the donor under the express condition that it remain perpetually in this institution." The thanks of the board were presented to Mr. Leibert, and Chas. J. Wister was requested to have the instrument put in complete repair at their expense. This glass or rather what is left of the precious relic, was recently taken by Mr. Miskey, by permission of the board, and placed by him in a handsome walnut box and deposited in the vault of the Germantown Bank. The boarding house was taken by Mr. Johnson, and he was thus placed in the entire possession and control of the whole school, according to the plan proposed and attempted to be carried out as early as 1810.

In November of 1823 sixteen scholars were reported in the Academy and nineteen in the preparatory school. Mr. Johnson proposed the use of stoves for burning Lehigh coal in the Academy, which was not acted upon; but at the meeting of the next March he presented a bill of \$19.90 for "coal stoves," which was ordered to be paid. In July, 1824, there were twenty-five scholars in the Academic and twelve in the preparatory school. It may seem strange to the present generation that the ringing of the bell at 12 o'clock for fifteen minutes was regarded of sufficient importance to justify the board in appointing Samuel Harvey, Reuben Haines and C. J. Wister a committee to urge Mr. Johnson to have it done regularly. He still neglected the admonition. But they visited him again and insisted that it must be rung at 12 o'clock for five minutes, and at fifteen minutes before two, or that the ringing must be entirely suspended. The secretary was after this directed to address a note to him to know whether he would have the bell rung as ordered. He refused to comply, unless a time-piece should be purchased and a bell-ringer paid for the service. With this proposition the board complied, forbidding the bell to be rung between 9 and 12, and 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ before 1 o'clock. Mr. Wister purchased the clock, that still continues to be an excellent time-piece, from Isaiah Luckens for \$50 about this time.

In February, 1825, the Executive Committee reported that they had put up shelves for the advantageous display of a fine collection of minerals belonging to the institution; and that they had bought from Mr. Haines a three-foot reflecting telescope for the use of the pupils. Among the archives of the Academy may also be mentioned a six-foot reflector, no reference to which have I been able to find on the minutes. This instrument, however, has never been of much use, for not only is its definition very defective—owing to the tarnishing of the mirror—but the mounting is so cumbersome that it is scarcely available for the purpose. Mr. C. J. Wister made every endeavor to have the mirror polished, but with little success, for mechanical skill in America had not yet reached a point to render this possible.

In August of 1825 "the executive committee reported that the number of pupils in the care of the principal was 56; that the present prospect was flattering, and that the character of the institution was rising in the public estimation." The principal invited the board to attend the annual examination and exhibition.

In February there were 39 pupils in the institution, including 18 boarders, and the executive committee reported that a thorough examination of the school had proved satisfactory to them. The death of the treasurer, John Johnson, was reported

by Charles J. Wister, and J. F. Watson was chosen as his successor in that office. Mr. Johnson's long experience as a member of the board, his great fidelity to the interests of the institution, and the very high esteem in which he was held by the whole community, had given him very large influence in the counsels of the friends and supporters of the Academy. The board was fortunate to have such a man as Mr. Watson to take his place. Rev. Mr. Baker was chosen to fill the vacancy in the board.

In August, 1826, Walter Johnson resigned the principalship of the Academy, and Mr. J. G. Cooper was chosen as his successor. During this period the library received considerable attention. In November, 1823, Mr. Watson reported that he had purchased Nickolson's Encyclopædia, 12 volumes, for \$10. At the annual meeting of 1825 Mr. Haines presented the trustees with a copy of Hagard's State Papers, 2 volumes, quarto. In August of this year Exkine Hagard deposited in the library for safe-keeping eighty folio volumes. With a Board of Trustees composed of gentlemen that would compare favorably with those of any institution of any grade, and under the management of two successive principals of acknowledged ability, and during a period when such a school ought to have been in greatest demand, the Academy did not attain that efficiency and popularity which its friends had predicted, and which they had earnestly labored to secure for it; nevertheless, it was a good school.

The history of the Academy has now been brought down to a period within the memory of many yet living, and it is thought proper to omit the details and present those matters only that will enable those unacquainted with its history to form some estimate of the progress of the institution during the half century of its existence since the year 1826. It was during that year that Walter R. Johnson resigned his place as principal, after having held it under the most favorable circumstances for about four years. It is evident that Mr. Johnson brought acknowledged ability to his undertaking; that he applied himself to the task of building up the school with great assiduity, and that he was supported by men of undoubted capability and great enthusiasm as trustees, and yet about the time of the close of his connection with the school, February, 1826, there were but 39 "pupils in the institution, including 18 boarders," when a thorough examination had proved satisfactory to the committee. The writer has met with those who were students of the Academy under Mr. Johnson who spoke of him in the highest terms, as an excellent teacher, and an accomplished gentleman. His successor, Mr. Cooper, opened with 35 pupils, 8 of whom were in the classical department; but he resigned before the end of the year. Mr. J. R. Gidding was appointed principal in November, 1827, and induced to take "the boarding house without rent until they (the committee) saw he had such success as to allow them to charge him with a moderate rent." The trustees indorsed his note in bank in order to enable him to furnish the house with cheap furniture for the accommodation of boarders, and held the furniture in pledge for the accommodation until the note should be paid. In February, 1828, the number of pupils had increased to 50, including 12 in the classical department. When the school had increased, in November, 1828, to 34 in the English and 31 in the classical department, the executive committee recommended to the trustees to charge the principal \$100 a year rent for the boarding house. A lot was bought from Dr. Bensell's estate at this meeting, through James Ashmead, for \$110, but its situation is not described in the minutes.

In April, 1830, the school had run down, and the principal resigned. He had secured a subscription of \$132 with which he had purchased 150 volumes to commence a library for the school. Moses Soule, of Bowdoin College, was his suc-

cessor. He commenced with 30 pupils, 10 of whom were in the classical department, and held his place for less than a year. "Theodore Jenks was appointed principal of the male department, and Wm. Russel and Amos B. Alcott principals of the female department," March 1, 1831.—This mention of a "female department" with "two principals" is rather obscure, and nothing appears in the minutes to explain the matter. It may refer to the "preparatory department," which for many years had admitted both girls and boys, in which there are reported 27 pupils in the month of May following, at the same time that 16 are reported in the classical department. At a meeting of the board in November, 1831, Levi F. Claffin was chosen as associate principal with Mr. Jenks, the school numbering 38, including 12 boarders. At this meeting the following minute was adopted in relation to the death of Reuben Haines. "Resolved, that this board do deeply regret the loss of their late member, Mr. Reuben Haines, whose attention, beneficence, liberality, ardent and indefatigable activity, rendered him always the warmest friend and patron of the institution. Great must be our exertions to make up the loss of his assistance to our school, where we so often and so long have felt his ready and enlightened usefulness."

Mr. Joseph P. Smith, the brother of Edmund Smith, treasurer of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, has shown the writer a receipt given to Thos. Potts for £6, signed by Richard Johnson, treasurer of the Germantown Union School, dated May, 1760. Mr. Potts was one of the first settlers of Germantown. He married the daughter of Peter Kuerlis, another of the first settlers of the place, and afterwards became the great ironmaster of Pennsylvania, the proprietor of Manatawny, and the founder of Pottstown, and stands at the head of one of the oldest families in the country. Mr. Smith is a direct descendant of Thomas Potts, and preserves this receipt for money contributed to the founding of Germantown Academy as a most interesting relic, among a very large collection of notable and valuable matters relating to the past that he has been collecting for many years. It is evident, from the published history of the Potts family, written by Mrs. T. P. James, of Boston, kindly loaned to the writer by Mr. Smith, that Mr. Potts had removed from this place to his residence near his great iron operations long before the erection of the Academy, but he still retained an active interest in his first American home. This fact shows how widespread was the interest in the great educational enterprise of that period of our colonial history. Would not a judicious and well-directed effort to revive the ancient interest in this institution, with a view to its enlargement and endowment in such manner as to adapt it to the present demands for an Academy, as it was once adapted to the educational wants of the community, find very many of the descendants of its ancient founders and friends, who are now reckoned among the most enterprising, ablest and wealthiest men of the State, ready and anxious to make contributions for such a purpose according to their ability? Ought not the Alumni of the institution, and all the true friends of sound education, to stir themselves now that they may not let the opportunity pass for making it a school of even more renown in the future than ever it has been in the past?

Theodore Russel Jenks proposed to take charge of the Academy as principal, provided he could secure day scholars and boarders sufficient to justify him in the undertaking, and that the trustees would guarantee him a loan of \$500, which they at first agreed to by authorizing the president to indorse his note in the Germantown Bank; but he entered upon his work as principal without the loan, succeeding Mr. Claffin, who resigned because the school seemed to be running down. In the depressed state of the school, the interest of the trustees flagged for a time, and but few meetings were held; and from some intimations in the minutes they were not

all of one mind in regard to what it was best to do in the case. In November, 1833, there were 30 in the English department, 10 of whom were free scholars; and 11 in the classical department, 4 of them boarders.

A committee consisting of C. J. Wister and John Smith, that had been appointed to have the old bell recast, made the following very interesting report, February 3, 1834: "The committee on the bell report, that they had the old bell taken down. It was cast in London in 1773 and weighed 284 lbs. It was sent to this country in one of the tea ships, and the tea not being permitted to be landed, the bell was taken back to London, and returned in 1784, soon after the peace between Great Britain and America. The bell which your committee have procured was cast by Lewis Debozeur in Philadelphia, with the metal from the old bell and with a small addition of new, and weighs 310 lbs." The whole cost was \$73.20. At this meeting John F. Watson offered resolutions, that in view of the numerous and ineffectual attempts made to sustain a boarding house, the premises should be advertised for sale, and a man be employed to reside in one of the wings and teach the classics at \$6 a quarter, rent free; but he could get no one to agree with him. At the meeting in the next May Dr. John C. Whitehead, of St. Edmond's Hall, Oxford, was elected principal in the place of Mr. Jencks, resigned. He commenced with 7 pupils, while the English school had 34. He was greatly depressed in view of this fact, and the trustees were discouraged. He withdrew from the school, and Rev. Christian F. Cruse was chosen in his place, September, 1834. Dr. Whitehead having refused to leave the dwelling, was induced to change his mind by the payment of \$30, in order that his successor might take possession of the boarding house. There were, February, 1835, 9 in the classical department, and 37 in the English, 12 of them on the free list. The principal was to pay \$100 rent. At the August meeting of the board there were 7 day scholars and 3 boarders in the classical, and 26 in the English, 14 of them on the free list. Mr. Cruse resigned in the September following. Mr. George B. Strong was permitted to occupy a room and teach Latin and mathematics until a principal could be secured, and at the meeting in March, 1836, the executive committee report "50 scholars in the preparatory department, 13 of whom are on the poor list and 14 county rates."

The writer has been led to give these details of the management of the school, the frequent change of principals, the small number in attendance, in order to show the general unsatisfactory condition of affairs when a proposition was received from Haddington College to combine the two institutions, with a view of advancing the best interests of both. This matter created a division among the trustees and led to much controversy among the citizens. It marks an epoch in the rather monotonous history of the Academy.

**HADDINGTON COLLEGE CONTROVERSY—TWO BOARDS ELECTED—\$500
FROM THE STATE—PUBLIC SCHOOL OFFERS \$500 RENT FOR THE
BUILDINGS—DEATH OF MR. CHEW.**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees was called for June 30, 1836, to receive and take into consideration an official communication from Haddington College, proposing to remove that institution to Germantown and join its fortunes with Germantown Academy. The college was under the care of the Baptist denomination, but was admitted on all hands to be conducted in a very liberal spirit. It was thought by the friends of that institution that Germantown would be a most favorable location for such a school as they had hoped to build up at Haddington, and they proposed to sell all their property and obtain a grant from the Legislature which would bring to the help of the Academy about \$16,000 in money, backed by all the

influence of one of the largest and most prosperous of the Christian churches. The proposition was favorably received by a majority of the board, and Samuel Harvey, John Rodney, and C. J. Wister were appointed a committee to meet a similar committee on the part of the college to arrange the plan of the union and effect an organization. It was arranged that the combined institution should be called "Germantown College in the County of Philadelphia." Provision was also to be made for a preparatory school and a theological seminary. For the latter the boarding house was to be bought and owned by the Baptists, whilst the school and college should occupy the Academy buildings and pay rent for them. It was specially stipulated that no sectarian bias should be given to the preparatory school and the college.

The board was divided on a resolution to unite with Haddington College to secure such changes in the respective charters, from the Legislature, as would enable them to combine both institutions in one without prejudice to the interests of either—6 voting in the affirmative and 9 in the negative; but on a resolution offered by Samuel Harvey, and seconded by C. J. Wister, that had been under discussion at several previous meetings: "That this board will take such order on the foregoing report [of the committee of conference] as will enable the institution under our care to embrace the benefit of the patronage of the Baptist association in the United States, or such part thereof as may be disposed to patronize it," the above vote was reversed—9 recording their names in the affirmative and 6 in the negative. It was then resolved to sell the boarding house to the Haddington College trustees, and lease them the "school-house, out-houses, and lots of ground appertaining thereunto, together with the furniture, library, cabinet of minerals and philosophical apparatus, for 21 years," and a committee, consisting of Mr. C. J. Wister, Samuel Harvey, Dr. W. N. Johnson, and Jedediah Strong, was appointed to carry these resolutions into effect. The minority did not yield, but commenced an agitation which finally raised such a storm of opposition to the whole undertaking as to render its success impossible, and the whole matter was finally abandoned. The boarding house property was then estimated to be worth \$4,000, and the opinion of Charles Chauncey was obtained that the trustees could sell it and make a good title. The strong majority of the board in favor of the new arrangement proposed used every legitimate means,—and possibly some that in their cooler moments they might have considered doubtful,—to carry the enterprise through; but they were finally wholly defeated by means of an amendment to the charter, making all the citizens of Germantown township legal voters for trustees of the Academy, instead of contributors only, as formerly. This was evidently a perversion of the purpose and intent of the founders of the institution; but it was law, and although the majority opposed the amendment to the best of their ability, they were finally compelled to submit, and to receive to membership in the board those chosen by the citizens according to the provisions of this amendment. It cannot now be doubted that both parties in the main studied the best interests of the Academy; but no movement could have so effectually unsettled all its future, and doomed it to a mediocre position as a school as the present method of choosing trustees. No permanence of organization or perennial prosperity can ever be attained by the school until the mode of perpetuating the Board of Trustees is secured by some other means. To this subject every friend of the Academy, and all who desire to see a first-class school for boys in Germantown, should give immediate attention!

Another fact ought to be stated. It is this. The gentlemen who proposed to place the school in such relation to the Baptist Church as to secure their patronage, will always be regarded as the most faithful and persevering patrons and benefac-



Sam^l Harvey

tors of the institution. They had not been baffled or discouraged by many vexatious disappointments; but when one thing failed they tried another, until all patience was exhausted; when this change was proposed, there were but 11 classical pupils in the school and 33 in the primary department. Nor were they wholly cast down by this defeat, for they at once placed the school under Henry K. Green as principal, with Eugene Scott and William Green as teachers. Mr. Collom took charge of the boarding house "rent free." Repairs to the amount of \$1,045.25 were made on the buildings and grounds, and there was another brief revival of interest, during which the number of pupils reached about 100 at certain seasons of the year. But it was of short duration, for Mr. Collom resigned and Mr. Green was removed from being principal, November 2, 1839. Alexander K. Reynolds was chosen principal, but he was dismissed within a few months.

In October, 1838, successful measures had been taken to secure \$500 annually from the State, which amount was promptly paid for some years by the State superintendent, Thomas H. Burrows. Notwithstanding this advantage, and the earnest efforts of A. G. Reynolds, Alfred J. Perkins and William Green as teachers, the number of pupils reported, February, 1842, was 20 in the classical department and 30 in the English. At this juncture the directors of the public schools offered \$500 a year rent for the school-house; but it was thought proper to decline the proposal, for reasons that seemed to the trustees to be weighty ones.

In November, 1842, Mr. Perkins was installed principal, with "rent free" until he should have ten boarders. He was to receive "the tuition in lieu of salary." In August, 1843, he resigned and received the commendation of the board as a good teacher, which was a rare compliment; no such action having been taken in regard to any teacher before him. A new principal was advertised for, and there was a host of applicants. There is a graphic description given of seven of the excellent gentlemen in the minutes of August 24, 1843, none of whom won the prize. Mr. W. M. Collom was the choice of the board, and he again entered upon his work with about 60 pupils, 20 of whom were boarders. It may be remarked here that Mr. C. J. Wister had resigned the previous year, and the death of Benjamin Chew is recorded in the minutes for May 13, 1844.

MINUTE IN REGARD TO MR. CHEW—ADDITION TO BUILDING—NEW ORGANIZATION—SCHOOL DECLINES—WITHINGTON.

In the minutes of the meeting of the board for May 13, 1844, the following minute in regard to Benjamin Chew is found inclosed in black lines:

"The president having communicated to this board that on the 30th day of last month Benjamin Chew, Esquire, our late president, departed this life in his eighty-sixth year of age, wherefore: Resolved, that there be recorded on the minutes of this board in testimony of him, that since the 3d day of July, 1805, he has been unanimously elected president of it from year to year. His amiability of manner endeared him to his associates in the board. He unwaveringly manifested deep interest in the welfare of the institution, and that this board lament his departure and do most sensibly sympathize with his afflicted family in their grief and irreparable loss."

Thirty-eight years of unremitting service as president of the Board of Trustees, always unanimously elected! That is a very remarkable record; and it would be a most pleasing duty for the writer to trace the history of this noble family, whose record runs back into colonial times in this country, with an honorable family name in the mother country, but nothing less than a separate volume would be sufficient to complete the account; and therefore any attempt in the brief space of these articles would only do injustice to the theme. Joseph Handsberry and Philip R.

Freas, editor of the "Germantown Telegraph," are the only surviving members of the board that made this minute of the death of Mr. Chew. Mr. Freas retired some years ago, but Mr. Handsberry, who became a member in 1839, is still a trustee and has always been a zealous and devoted friend of the Academy. Mr. William Green, who was a teacher in the Academy from 1832 to 1844, came into the board in 1848, acting as secretary for many years, and he is still a trustee and a faithful and earnest friend of the school. Samuel Harvey succeeded Mr. Chew as president of the board; and he was succeeded by Charles M. Stokes in 1848. On the death of the latter W. H. Stokes became president, April, 13, 1850, with William Green secretary, and W. K. Fry treasurer.

The teachers in 1844 were, Wm. M. Collom, principal; John K. Henck, assistant; Charles Fry, French and German; Wm. Green, English department. Mr. Collom's return to the Academy had brought to it a large accession of boarding students. In March of this year he had 19 boarders and 35 day scholars. The next year the boarders increased to 31 in number, whilst the local patronage was reduced to 14 pupils. In February, 1849, the boarders were 28 and there were 6 local pupils. The trustees dealt with great liberality toward Mr. Collom, proposing at his return to the school to charge him no rent for the buildings until he should have a certain number of boarders, and when he had secured that number they decided not to impose any rent. Apparatus, chemical and philosophical, to the amount of \$300, was proposed, and most of it secured at his request. The visiting committee, of whom Philip Syng Physick was chairman, speak in very high terms of the principal, his teachers and the school, in November, 1844. In February, 1846, the principal agrees to pay a rent of \$100 a year. At the annual meeting in May of the same year he asks for more room for boarders, and the board at once ordered an addition to the mansion, which in the next February was reported to be completed at a cost of \$785.41. In November of 1847 there were but 25 pupils in school, only 13 of whom were boarders, and the trustees generously exonerated Mr. Collom from paying the small amount of rent agreed upon; which favor was continued during the next year, except \$50 for the new part of the dwelling. In March, 1849, Mr. Collom resigned, and his resignation was accepted; but after a month's deliberation he withdrew it and was continued as principal for another year. But the opposition to him became very strong as the year progressed, and in February of 1850 his final resignation was tendered and at once accepted by the board.

Under the leadership of W. H. Stokes a grand reorganization of the Academy was proposed, doing away with a principal, and making each teacher directly responsible to a committee of the trustees, as principal of his own department, and all the teachers to have the general management of the whole school successively, each a month at a time. The details of the plan it is not important to relate. The inspiration of the scheme was to bring the teachers and the pupils of the Academy into strict subordination to the trustees, who should assume directly the responsibility of the classification and arrangement of studies in detail, collect the tuition and pay each teacher a salary, giving but little, if any, encouragement to its boarding pupils. This would seem to have been a very natural but most unfortunate reaction from the probably somewhat imperious and dictatorial manner of the otherwise most excellent, and in many respects successful, recent principal's method of managing affairs. On the part of Mr. Stokes and those who acted with him it was engaged in with all the confidence and enthusiasm of a new invention. But a little knowledge of the history of this institution would have shown them that it had been attempted many times with signal failure. With plenty of money and a leader and manager of some executive ability, a scheme of lay-management of a school may be more

successful than this was; and it may seem to promise final good results, but there is in the whole scheme the elements of final disaster and utter inefficiency. The freedom and moral independence of the teacher are essential to any permanent success of the school, of whatever grade, with subordination to wise and sympathetic professional supervision only in all that pertains to classification and arrangement of studies. The duties of the teacher are now admitted to take rank with that of other learned professions. Trustees can no more manage the details of the school than they can that of a law school, a theological seminary, or a medical college. It is their business to provide for its pecuniary support, and to so protect the teacher from outside interference as to enable him to devote all his natural and acquired abilities and skill to the work of teaching, with perfect freedom to use, according to his wisdom and discretion, all the means and appliances known to the profession to be best adapted to secure the physical, intellectual, esthetical and highest and best *moral* development of his pupils. The fatal error of this institution, in all its long and somewhat monotonous history, has been, and still is, a most inadequate provision for the permanent support of competent teachers. Now and again the trustees have seemed to realize the trouble, and aroused themselves with great energy and determination to meet and overcome the standing reproach of the institution—an inadequate support of teachers. But usually an experience of not more than two or three years brought them to grief for want of money. Then they cast about them for a popular and successful teacher, whose magic power might breathe life into the establishment for a brief period. They threw upon *him* the financial responsibility, cheered him on to a noble effort, and when his efforts were exhausted and his patronage began to fail, they could only commiserate his mistakes and drop him in order to test a new candidate.

To the honor of Mr. Stokes' enterprise it must be said that, whilst it was a failure in the essential matter of a successful experiment, its purpose was to take away this reproach, by an assumption on the part of the trustees of all the pecuniary responsibility. If they had moved right forward to such an endowment of the school as would have made them and their teachers independent, to pursue such a course that they would not have been dependent upon the fluctuation of local patronage, the other radical defect in the scheme might have been detected in time to save it from utter failure. But they did not do this. They repeated the old folly. They would secure popular teachers and rely upon the proceeds of patronage to provide the means of paying their salaries. They agreed "to advertise for a teacher of the classical, grammar and primary departments until the 8th of March, 1850." There were fifty applicants for their places; and from these three gentlemen were selected and set to work under the new regime, with 5 in the classical, 18 in the grammar, and 18 in the primary; 9 of the latter on the poor fund August 12, 1850. Of course, the classical department was a failure, and the teacher was dismissed and the classical school discontinued at the next meeting, February, 1851. Funds were needed and temporary loans resorted to. The Mansion House was prepared for two families in order to increase the income from rents. A permanent loan of \$1,200 on mortgage was secured in February, 1852. The demand for more money had been increased by very expensive repairs amounting to \$1,278.70 in all. Damages were received to the amount of \$450 for opening Green street through a part of the school property. A revised set of rules for the management of the separate schools was adopted by the board, making the three teachers of equal rank so as to place all the pupils on the same level. New teachers were employed as soon as those tried were found to be inefficient, unpopular, or for some cause resigned their places, and great energy displayed upon the part of the trustees to sustain the

vigor of the school and the reputation of the Academy. Two or three unsuccessful attempts were made to revive the classical department. But all in vain. The school continued to decline until October, 1853, when Mr. Withington applied for the place of principal of the Academy, and it was "Resolved, that the board guarantee Mr. Withington the sum of one thousand dollars for the first year as principal of the classical school, the said Mr. Withington to collect the tuition fees. Resolved, that the grammar school be guaranteed to Mr. Withington for \$500 for the first year, he to collect the tuition fee, and the board to regulate the price of tuition," and the president was authorized to notify Mr. Withington of these proposals. At a meeting of the board, held February 13, 1854, this offer was modified in accordance with a proposition from Mr. Withington, who had then been in charge of the Academy since November, 1853. His proposition was, "That the guarantee of one thousand dollars for the classical department be relinquished; and that the trustees be entitled to the use of twelve seats in the school at a charge not exceeding sixteen dollars per annum: That the trustees pay Mr. Withington for the first year three hundred dollars, and that they consent the prices of tuition hereafter shall be \$30, \$48, and \$60 per annum." This proposition was accepted as a basis of agreement. These were the highest rates of tuition ever charged in the history of the Academy.

We see that the board again returned to the oft-tried plan of placing the school under a principal, and of giving him the proceeds of tuition with a cash payment of \$300 to enable him to meet the expenses of conducting it. Rev. C. W. Schaeffer, D. D., and Wm. Ashmead, M. D., both at the present writing members of the board, came into it during this period, Dr. Schaeffer in 1850 and Dr. Ashmead in 1854. These gentlemen have always been regarded as representing the old school in the board, and have always been found to be wise, consistent and faithful friends and supporters of the Academy under all circumstances. Mr. Withington moved on quietly with the school, but with what number of pupils does not appear on the minutes, until after several resolutions of the board had been passed asking him for a statement of its condition, when he reported, in May, 1856, 70 pupils in attendance. He had received but \$200 assistance from the board for the two previous years. He was given possession of the Mansion House, July, 1, 1856, at a rental of \$400 a year, and the cash compensation was discontinued. In February, 1858, 80 pupils were reported to be in attendance, and the school in good condition.

At a meeting held August 8, 1859, the board passed the following: "Resolved, that the secretary notify Mr. Withington that the Board of Trustees are very much dissatisfied at not receiving at each stated meeting of the board from the principal of the school a full report of the state and condition of the school, according to the true meaning and intent of the resolution of this board passed May 14, 1855." This brought out at the next meeting a report from the principal, that "We close the first term of the Academic year November 15, 1859. There are three departments—viz.: classical, intermediate and primary, under my own instruction, Mr. Wilder and Mr. Wood, the school occupying three rooms; average number of scholars for the term will be ninety, which is larger than any preceding term. We shall probably realize about one thousand dollars from the tuition this term. Six boys are on the free list and four on the reserved seats." Gas was introduced during this year at Mr. Withington's request. No further mention is made in the minutes in regard to the condition of the school until August, 1861, when Mr. Withington asked that the rent of the dwelling house be reduced to \$300, and the board agreed to the proposal, which would seem to indicate that the prosperity of the school had begun to decline; and in February of the next year, 1862, he was in arrears for

rent to the amount of about \$500. In the March meeting of that year the whole matter of the rent was referred to the president, treasurer, and Mr. Bayard, with full power to make such settlement as they might think best.

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ACADEMY.

No historic sketch of the Academy would be complete without a notice of the centennial celebration of the laying of the "four Corner Stones" of the main building, which anniversary took place April 21, 1860. Germantown has rarely witnessed an occasion of deeper interest to all the older residents and their families, as well as to many who have more recently joined their fortunes with those of the ancient borough. That day gave the clearest evidence of what a hold the OLD SCHOOL has upon the affections of at least a very large class of the most respected, wealthy and cultured part of the population of the place; and at the same time it shows what success a wisely arranged plan for its establishment on a permanent foundation adapting it to a new course of the highest usefulness might meet with if judiciously and perseveringly presented to the people. The grand display of genuine enthusiasm is too recent, and the deep impressions it made upon the minds and hearts of all the people, and especially upon the multitudes of alumni and former students of the Academy, too vivid and too warmly cherished by all to need any detailed description of the great day at this time.

It may be remarked, however, that there was no very long deliberation in regard to the matter. Indeed, it was rather an afterthought; or at least a spontaneous impulse that with some earnest probes from a few who have always watched the institution with jealous care, moved the whole community to the great ovation to the men who founded the Academy a hundred years ago, and became the benefactors of the town. The Centennial Board of Trustees was composed of the following gentlemen: C. F. Ashmead, Fred. Heyl, P. H. Coulter, Wm. Green, Fred. Emhardt, J. K. Gamble, T. B. Butcher, Albert Ashmead, Jos. Handsberry, A. McIntyre, W. H. Stokes, C. P. Bayard, F. W. Bockius, Ed. Royal, C. W. Schaeffer, W. R. Fry, Benj. Lehman, J. C. Channon, T. R. Fisher, David Bowman, Wm. Ashmead. Of these Rev. Charles W. Schaeffer, Joseph Handsberry, Wm. Green and Wm. Ashmead, M. D., are still members of the board.

The first move of the trustees towards a centennial celebration was at a stated meeting, November 14, 1859, when it was "Resolved, that the committee reviewing the original papers and records of the institution [consisting of W. H. Stokes, A. McIntyre, C. W. Schaeffer and T. R. Fisher] have power to fix the time for celebrating the centenary anniversary of the organization of the Public School of Germantown." Mr. C. F. Ashmead proposed to fix on the 6th day of December, 1859, but it was concluded to leave that matter to the above committee. At a special meeting on November 22d, on motion of Rev. C. W. Schaeffer, it was resolved that a centenary celebration be held, and the committee proposed the 25th day of January, 1860, as the proper day. The proposition was referred back to the committee, and the board resolved to hold a meeting on the 6th day of December, the anniversary of the first meeting ever held in regard to the school, and the committee was directed to call a meeting of the alumni at the Town Hall on the same evening. Nothing was done at the meeting held on December 6th; but at a special meeting held January 2, 1860, it was resolved that "the first day of January, 1860, is the centennial anniversary of the Public School of Germantown," and the committee was requested to present to the meeting for February a suitable preamble and resolutions, to be placed upon the minutes, in regard to the centenary celebration. At that meeting the whole plan had been fully determined upon, and no briefer and more perspicuous statement can be given of the nature and extent of the preparations than that found in the words

of the report of the committee, which is signed by Thomas R. Fisher, Archibald McIntyre, and Rev. C. W. Schaeffer:

"The committee appointed by the trustees of the Public School of Germantown to draft a suitable preamble and resolutions relative to the centennial anniversary beg leave to report:

"That as the period of the hundredth year since the commencement by our forefathers of organization into a body for collecting funds and taking all intuitive steps to build the present noble structure of the Public School and opening it for instruction has approached, the present Board of Trustees have not been unmindful that they are called upon by private feeling as well as public duty to celebrate in a suitable manner, the centennial anniversary of its commencement. And by so doing to testify to the high respect with which we look to the labors of that noble band who conceived and carried into execution the present building, a monument of their energy and benevolence, which has tended more perhaps than any other event to place Germantown in point of intelligence among the first, if not the very first suburban village in the United States.

"It was therefore agreed by the committee that we request Sidney George Fisher, who had participated in the advantages of the institution, to deliver an address on the occasion, which duty he has accepted.

"And in order to give the citizens of Germantown an opportunity to unite with the trustees in a suitable celebration, it was resolved by the Board of Trustees that a public meeting be called on the 6th of December, 1859, that being the expiration of one hundred years since the first meeting preparatory to an organization, was held at the house of Daniel Machinet, in Germantown. In pursuance of that call, the meeting was held at the Town Hall, and was organized by the appointment of John S. Littell, as president, who was desired to appoint a committee to unite with the Board of Trustees in encouragement for a suitable demonstration for the occasion. . . . At that meeting it was resolved that in furtherance of the views of the trustees, the first day of January, 1860, will be the Centennial anniversary of the organization of the public school; and it was further resolved, that in consequence of that day coming on the Sabbath, and the inclement season of the year, that the celebration shall be held on the 21st day of April next, that being the centennial anniversary of laying the four corner stones of the building. The committee, therefore, in obedience to the object of their appointment, respectfully propose the following for the action of the Board of Trustees:

Resolved, that the centennial anniversary be held on the 21st day of April in the Town Hall at . . . p. m., where the trustees will assemble with the citizens and friends of the school to hear an address by Sidney George Fisher.

Resolved, that the body of the trustees will assemble at the Academy at . . . of the aforesaid day and with the teachers and pupils of the school will walk in procession to the Town Hall.

Resolved, that the secretary give public notice of the day and hour of the celebration, in the Germantown Telegraph, United States Gazette, Press, and Evening Bulletin, and that the citizens generally, and the alumni in particular be invited to attend.

Resolved, that if any of the friends of the school should make arrangements for such a collation as may accord with the dignity of the Academy, and the proprieties of the occasion, the trustees will hold themselves in readiness to give it their acquiescence."

This report of the committee was accepted and the order of exercises unanimously adopted, and Frederick Emhardt, Joseph Handsberry, Francis Heyl, and Albert Ashmead, were added to the committee to assist in carrying out the programme. Every part of the whole celebration was most successful. A long procession of the trustees, the teachers and students of the Academy, was formed at the appointed hour on the grounds of the institution, and moved to Town Hall headed by a band of music. The whole populace was moved with great enthusiasm, displaying flags and banners on all sides. At the Town Hall this procession was met by a large number of the alumni, gathered from the city and country round about, and from more distant places, and a great assemblage of the citizens, eager to exalt the honor of the institution. The opening prayer by Rev. C. W. Schaeffer, an original hymn, written for the occasion by John S. Littell, and the centennial address, by Sidney George Fisher, together with a brief statement of the ceremonies of the day, were published as a memorial volume.

The remaining part of Mr. Withington's administration of the school, as well as that of his successor, Mr. Mays, and of the present principal, is still fresh in the memory of its friends, and a more detailed allusion to them may be left for another hand, when passing events, or those just passed, shall have become so remote as to be justly regarded as subjects proper to be used by the historian. The task of gathering up these matters pertaining to the history of Germantown Academy has not been an unpleasant one to the writer. The narrative has occupied much more space than was at first anticipated; and yet all that has been said falls very far short of giving a full and complete account of this famous old school. * *

Here the account of Mr. Travis closes. For a short history of the Academy to the present date, the reader is referred to the Preface.

